

F.No. 394/121/2018-Cus(AS)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs  
(Anti-Smuggling Unit)  
\*\*\*

New Delhi, dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

To  
All Principal Chief Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Preventive),  
All Principal Chief Commissioners/Chief Commissioners of Customs & CGST,  
All Principal Commissioners/Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Preventive),  
All Principal Commissioners/Commissioners of Customs & CGST,  
The Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

Madam / Sir,

**Subject: Advisory on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-Burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like products – reg.**

Kind attention is invited to the subject advisory dated 28.08.2018 issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide F.No. P-16012/19/2017-TC. A copy of the said advisory is enclosed as **Annexure - I**.

2. Considering the adverse health impact of ENDS/E-Cigarettes and in order to prevent the initiation of nicotine through ENDS by non-smokers and youth, with special attention to vulnerable groups, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued the aforesaid advisory to ensure that any ENDS including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-Burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like devices that enable nicotine delivery are not sold, manufactured, distributed, traded, imported and advertised, except for the purpose and in the manner and to the extent, as may be approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder.

3. In view of the above, it is requested that all the officers under your jurisdiction may be directed to ensure implementation of the aforesaid advisory by referring import consignments of ENDS including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-Burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like devices / products to the Assistant / Deputy Drugs Controller in their jurisdiction. The Assistant / Deputy Drugs Controllers may thereafter check the compliance of such goods in terms of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder. Based on the report of the Assistant / Deputy Drugs Controller, non-compliant consignments should not be allowed clearance and appropriate action should be initiated for violation of provisions of the Allied Act (Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder).

Difficulties faced, if any, may be brought to the notice of the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

  
(Rohit Anand)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

F. No- P-16012/19/2017-TC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Dated, the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

**Advisory on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like products**

\*\*\*\*\*

Whereas, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) are devices that heat a solution to create an aerosol, which frequently also contains flavours, usually dissolved into Propylene Glycol or/and Glycerin. Electronic cigarettes, the most common prototype, are devices that do not burn or use tobacco leaves but instead vaporise a solution, which the user then inhales. The main constituents of the solution, in addition to nicotine when nicotine is present, are propylene glycol, with or without glycerol and flavouring agents. ENDS solutions and emissions contain other chemicals, some of them considered to be toxicants. Although ENDS is generally considered a single product class, these products constitute a diverse group with potentially significant differences in the production of toxicants and mechanisms for delivery of nicotine;

*And whereas,* Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) aerosol contains nicotine, the addictive component of tobacco products. In addition to creating dependence, nicotine can have adverse effects on the development of the foetus during pregnancy. It may contribute to cardiovascular disease to the people who use ENDS. Also, nicotine may function as a “tumour promoter” and seems to be involved in the biology of malignant diseases. Foetal and adolescent nicotine exposure may have long-term consequences for brain development, potentially leading to learning and anxiety disorders. A number of metals - including lead, chromium, and nickel, and chemicals like formaldehyde have been found in aerosols of some ENDS, with concentrations equal to or greater than traditional cigarettes, under normal experimental conditions of use. As such, the evidence is sufficient to warn children and adolescents, pregnant women, and women of reproductive age against ENDS use and nicotine;

*And whereas*, nicotine is prohibited for use as an ingredient in any food item under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulation, 2011 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006;

*And whereas*, both Nicotine and Nicotine Sulphate are listed as hazardous chemicals in the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 made under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

*And whereas*, nicotine is also listed as an insecticide in the Schedule of Insecticides under the Insecticide Act 1968, and subsequently its use as a pesticide is also highly restricted by Government of India;

*And whereas*, there are possibilities that children, adolescents & youth (and generally non-smokers) will initiate nicotine use through ENDS at a rate greater than expected if ENDS did not exist; and that, once addicted to nicotine through ENDS, such children, adolescents & youth are likely to switch to cigarette smoking;

*And whereas*, the scientific evidence regarding the effectiveness of ENDS as a smoking cessation aid is scant and of low certainty, making it difficult to draw credible inferences. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules, 1945 permit the use of Nicotine up to 2 mg and 4 mg in gums, lozenges and strips, which may be used as aids for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT). However, such a product should adhere to the provisions of Chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Rules made thereunder, which require them to be manufactured under a valid drug manufacturing license and also a valid sales license for products containing more than 2mg of nicotine. ENDS are not yet approved as NRTs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act;

*And whereas*, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India conducted a Roundtable discussion on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) in 2014, wherein eminent doctors, specialists, scientists and officers of Health and Drug departments concluded that available scientific evidences indicate that the ENDS and similar technologies that encourage tobacco use, are hazardous for an active as well as passive users and have an adverse impact on public health;

*And whereas*, the State Governments of Punjab [Vide Circular dated 5.9.13]; Karnataka [Vide Circular dated 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2016]; Mizoram [Vide Circular dated 8<sup>th</sup>

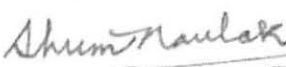
June, 2016]; Kerala [Vide Order dated 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2016]; Jammu & Kashmir [Vide Circular dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017]; Uttar Pradesh [Vide Order dated 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017]; Bihar [Vide Order dated 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2017] have prohibited the manufacture, distribution, import and sale of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS);

*And whereas*, as per the World Health Organization Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2017, the Governments of thirty (30) countries including Mauritius, Australia, Singapore, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Sri Lanka, Thailand, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Bahrain, Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates etc, have already banned Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) in their countries;

Now therefore, it is evident that Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-Burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like devices or products available by whatsoever name, that enable nicotine delivery or its use, are a great health risk to public at large, especially to children, adolescents, pregnant women and women of reproductive age. It is also evident that ENDS are not approved as NRTs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made thereunder.

As such, the States/Union Territories are advised, in larger public health interest and in order to prevent the initiation of ENDS by non-smokers and youth with special attention to vulnerable groups, to ensure that any Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-Burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like devices that enable nicotine delivery are not sold (including online sale), manufactured, distributed, traded, imported and advertised in their jurisdictions, except for the purpose & in the manner and to the extent, as may be approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

  
28/08/18

(T. Chinsum Naulak)

Under Secretary  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India

Copy for information and necessary action to:

Principal Secretary (Health) of All States / UTs