



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

National Assembly

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LAW ON TOBACCO CONTROL

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Objective

This Law determines principles, rules and measures for tobacco products control, management, monitoring, inspection of production, importation, distribution, and advertisement to protect the health of the population against detrimental effects of tobacco, aiming at reducing its use and unnecessary expenditures, protecting the environment and contributing to the protection and development of the country.

Article 2. Tobacco Control

Tobacco control consists in the utilization of different measures to manage, monitor and inspect the production, importation, distribution and sale-purchase of tobacco products and smoking areas, aiming at reducing the demand and the danger from tobacco products use and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Article 3. Definition of Terms

Terms used in this Law have their meaning as follows:

1. **Tobacco means** a product prepared from a kind of seasonal plant containing nicotine which is toxic and addictive;
2. **Use of tobacco means** the act of smoking, chewing a tobacco product, keeping it in one's mouth, sniffing, and inhaling it;
3. **Tobacco product means** sliced tobacco, cigarettes, cigars and other forms of tobacco entirely or partly made of tobacco leaves as raw materials;
4. **Exposure to tobacco smoke means** the fact that non-smokers breathe in either tobacco smoke exhaled by smokers or tobacco smoke rising from burning cigarettes;

5. **Tobacco-similar product means** imitated tobacco product used for advertisement purposes, inducing people to use tobacco;
6. **Illegal tobacco means** industrial tobacco product, which is produced, imported and distributed without authorization;
7. **Automatic cigarette vending machine means** a tobacco product selling machine where user can buy it by using cash or by inserting a coin or a specific card;
8. **Tobacco industry means** tobacco manufacturers, importers and wholesale distributors of industrialized tobacco products;
9. **Tobacco sponsorship means** any form of contributions to any event, activity or means with the aims, effect of promoting a tobacco product or tobacco use either directly or indirectly.
10. **Packaging means** putting tobacco products into packets, cartons, cases and into other packing materials;
11. **Sliced tobacco means** a product made of sliced tobacco leaves and used by rolling, putting into a pipe or into a bamboo-made pipe for smoking, kept in one's mouth or chewed or sniffed.

Article 4. Policies of the State on Tobacco Control

The State controls tobacco by formulating policies and measures such as increasing taxes, determining non smoking areas and distribution places, sale-purchase of tobacco and promoting farmers to grow alternative crops.

The State pays attention on advertising, educating the whole society by various means, in order to raise their awareness of the detrimental effects and to do not use tobacco.

The State encourages individuals, families and all organizations to be part of the tobacco control, including rehabilitation of quitted smokers and treatment those affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco smoke and those suffering illness caused by tobacco smoke.

The State manages the production, importation, distribution, sale purchase and use of tobacco products, aiming at reducing tobacco smoking among the multi-ethnic Lao people, reducing diseases and various unnecessary expenditures from tobacco use and promoting the health of all citizens.

The State provides the budget, necessary means and materials for the accomplishment of tasks related to tobacco control.

Article 5. Tobacco Control Principles

Tobacco control shall comply with the following principles:

1. To centrally ensure management, monitoring and inspection throughout the country and encourage wide participation of individuals and organizations;
2. To ensure that all citizens live in a smoke free environment and can access to rehabilitation for quitting and treatment when they are affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco;
3. Efforts to combat the detrimental effects of tobacco shall be started from individuals and families with the participation of organizations and society;
4. To strictly implement the designated smoking areas on tobacco products use, e.g. smoking.

Article 6. Obligations of Citizens on Tobacco Control

Individuals, families and organizations residing in the Lao PDR have obligation to contribute to the control, management, monitoring and inspection of tobacco control, by being as a role model in the implementation of Tobacco Control Law and by educating and advocating their neighbors or those who are under their authority to be conscious of the detrimental effects of tobacco use.

Article 7. Scope of the Law

This Law shall be used to control the production, importation, distribution and sale-purchase of the industrial tobacco products and smoking areas throughout the Lao PDR.

Article 8. International Cooperation

The State encourages relations and co-operation with foreign countries, regions and the international community by exchanging of experiences, data and information, techniques, technologies, trainings and capacity building including fund raising, different means and materials to make tobacco control effective in accordance with international agreements and treaties to which the Lao PDR is a party.

PART II
TYPE OF PRODUCTS AND DETRIMENTAL
EFFECTS OF TOBACCO

Section 1
Type of Tobacco Products

Article 9. Type of Products

There are two types of tobacco products:

- Industrial product;
- Manual product.

Article 10. Industrial Product

The industrial product is a product that is manufactured by machines in factories, which can be produced in large quantities.

Article 11. Manual Product

The manual product is a product made by hand or by using primitive tools.

Article 12. Kinds of Tobacco Products

There are several kinds of tobacco products such as: sliced tobacco, cigarettes in packets, cigars and other kinds which are entirely or partly made of tobacco leaves.

Section 2
Detrimental Effects of Tobacco

Article 13. Detrimental Effects to the Health

The use of tobacco, e.g. smoking is detrimental to the health of smokers and to the health of those who expose to tobacco smoke, especially women and children who have the risk in getting severe diseases such as lung cancer, vascular and coronary diseases, chronic diseases of respiratory, digestive and nervous systems and other diseases which caused lethal.

Article 14. Impacts on Social-Economy

In addition to its detrimental effects mentioning in Article 13 of this Law, the use of tobacco also spoils the health of workers, manufacturers and increases their unnecessary expenditures, which has a negative impact on national socio-economic development and damage of the environment.

Article 15. Impacts on Families

In addition to its detrimental effects mentioning in Article 13 of this Law, tobacco use is harmful to the health of family members, especially women and children; smokers have to spend their money on tobacco and on treatment of burden diseases, which is increased the family overload..

PART III

CONTROL OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Section 1

Control of Production, Importation and Distribution of Tobacco Products

Article16. Control of Production

Industrial production of cigarettes in the Lao PDR shall be under the strict control, management, monitoring and inspection and in compliance with the regulations of the Tobacco Management and Inspection Authority, e.g. technical standards, printing of labels and warnings as mentioning in Articles 33 and 34 of this Law.

Article17. Control of Importation

The importation of tobacco products in the Lao PDR shall be under strict control, management, monitoring and inspection, such as authorization, printing of labels and warnings and shall apply the State rules.

Article18. Control of Distribution

The distribution of tobacco in the Lao PDR shall be authorized according to a specific regulation and monitored by related State sectors.

Distribution or sale- purchase of tobacco products shall not be authorized in the following places:

1. Health service facilities;

2. Educational facilities;
3. State offices and agencies;
4. Entertainment venues such as cinemas, theatres, gymnasiums, cultural halls, museums, stadiums, physical exercise places;
5. Public transport ;

Places intended for retailing cigarettes shall be suitable and authorized.

Tobacco products shall not be distributed or purchased-sold by or to children under eighteen years of age.

Section 2

Containing and Packaging of Tobacco Products

Article 19. Tobacco Product Containing

To reduce the purchasing power and the use of tobacco by children, the content of tobacco products shall not be less than twenty sticks per packet or fifty sticks per tin.

Article 20. Tobacco Product Packaging

Packets, cartons, parcels, tins, cases of cigarettes shall bear printed labels and warnings determining by the Government.

Section 3

Obligation of Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors and Users of Tobacco Products

Article 21. General Obligation

Manufacturers, importers, and distributors of tobacco products shall have the following general obligation:

1. To strictly comply with Tobacco Control Law;
2. To contribute a sum of money into Tobacco Control Fund mentioning in clause 2 of Article 46 of this Law;
3. To run a business transparently and in an accountable manner.

For the buyers-sellers of tobacco products, they shall comply with clause 1 of this Article.

Article 22. Obligation of Manufacturers

In addition to the general obligation mentioning in Article 21 of this Law, the manufacturers of tobacco products shall also have the following obligation:

1. To print label and health warning in texts on tobacco product packaging;
2. To protect the environment, especially in their production area;
3. To protect and promote the health of workers in the production of tobacco, according to regulations.

Article 23. Obligation of Importers

In addition to the general obligation mentioning in Article 21 of this Law, importers of tobacco are also obliged to ensure that imported tobacco products are bearing the printed label and health warning in texts on tobacco product packaging, in accordance with regulations.

Article 24. Obligation of Distributors

In addition to the general obligation mentioning in Article 21 of this Law, distributors, buyers-sellers shall also have the following obligation:

1. To ensure that suitable places for the distribution and sale-purchase of tobacco products are available;
2. To distribute, sell-purchase only tobacco products with printed label and health warning in texts mentioning in regulations.

Article 25. Obligation of Tobacco Products Users

Tobacco products users shall have the following obligation:

1. To smoke only in authorized areas;
2. To protect the environment, e.g. by do not throw cigarette butts in a disorderly manner;
3. To respect the rights of non-smokers and neighbors.

Section 4

Responsibilities for Tobacco Control

Article 26. Responsibilities of the State

The State is responsible for the control, management, monitoring and inspection of tobacco by formulating policies, laws and regulations related to such work including rehabilitation of the quitted smokers, treatment of tobacco-addicted people and those affected by detrimental effects of tobacco; provision of budget, means, equipment and staff for the accomplishment of tobacco control tasks, e.g. propaganda and education on detrimental effects of tobacco.

Article 27. Responsibilities of Related Sectors

Related sectors are responsible for establishing a special unit in charge of tobacco control and guiding, monitoring and inspecting their vertical line in the accomplishment of their task according to their roles, rights and duties.

Article 28. Responsibilities of Society and Community

Society and community are responsible for the dissemination and mobilization all classes of people persuading the detrimental effects of tobacco, non smoking is a popular norm of the society, and to be together involved in tobacco control, e.g. reduce tobacco use, smoke in authorized places and rehabilitate quitted smokers, treat tobacco dependence and those being affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco.

Article 29. Responsibilities of Family

Family plays an important role and is responsible for educating, advocating its members about the detrimental effects of tobacco, being a role model to others in keeping away from tobacco, participating in the movement for the control, management, monitoring and inspection of tobacco and providing rehabilitation and treatment to any family member when quitting smoking and those who affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco, including following up the quitted smokers for do not relapse.

Article 30. Responsibilities of Individuals

All Lao citizens, e.g. teenagers, youth, pupils and students shall be themselves kept away from tobacco and against attempting to smoke.

Parents, guardians and teachers-institutors shall be role-models in keeping away from tobacco and shall advice to their children, grand children, pupils and students to do not smoke tobacco and these latter shall follow such advice. Once addicting to tobacco, they should decide to accept the rehabilitation to quit smoking.

PART IV

HEALTH PROTECTION FROM DETRIMENTAL

EFFECTS OF TOBACCO

Section 1

**Propaganda and Provision of Data-Information
On Detrimental Effects of Tobacco**

Article 31. Propaganda and Health Education on Detrimental Effects of Tobacco

Propaganda, health education are acts of giving knowledge, mobilization of people to keep away from tobacco, including providing them with scientific data-information on tobacco smoking, exposure to tobacco smoke and detrimental effects caused by smoking by various forms and methods, e.g. through the mass media.

Individuals and organizations, e.g. sectors of Public Health, Information and Culture, Education, sports-gymnastics, Tourism, Lao Front for National Construction and mass organizations shall pay attention to propagandize and health educate on detrimental effects of tobacco to population, especially to teenagers, young people, pupils and students to raise awareness to do not smoke, including campaigning, inducing and persuading smokers to quit smoking.

Article 32. Provision of Data-Information on Detrimental Effects of Tobacco

Sectors of Public Health, Education, Information and Culture, Tourism, Lao Front for National Construction, Lao Women's Union, Lao Revolutionary Youth, Trade Union and other State and private organizations in the society, are responsible for and regularly provide data-information on the detrimental effects of tobacco to the population. All citizens have the right to receive data-information on tobacco control, e.g. the detrimental effects of tobacco use, the benefits of non-smoking, quitting smoking and smoke-free environment through mass media and various activities.

Section 2

Packaging and Labeling on Tobacco Products

Article 33. Labels

Labels are texts determined by Government and printed on external small sides of each packet, parcel, carton and case for showing to tobacco users.

Tobacco products distributed in the Lao PDR shall be printed labels mentioning in the above clause.

Article 34. Health Warning

Health Warning are texts determined by Government and printed on the main front and back of each packet, parcel, carton and case of tobacco product to show to tobacco users that this product is dangerous and harmful to human health.

Tobacco products distributed in the Lao PDR shall be printed health warning mentioning in the above clause.

Section 3

Tobacco Price

Article 35. Tobacco Price

The price of tobacco products shall be periodically adjusted in accordance with customs and tax policy to reduce the tobacco use in the society.

Related State sectors have duties to follow up and periodically collect of data on tobacco product price, in order to appropriately improve customs and tax policy related to tobacco products.

Distributors of tobacco products shall tag price for the convenience of users and other related parties.

Article 36. Tax impose

Customs and tax officers shall follow up, inspect and completely and strictly impose the taxes on production, importation and distribution of tobacco products in the Lao PDR in accordance with laws and regulations.

Section 4

Non Smoking Areas

Article 37. Non Smoking Areas

All kind of non smoking areas are as follows:

1. Health service facilities;
2. Educational facilities, meeting rooms, entertainment rooms;
3. In side of public land, aquatic and aerial transport;
4. Places having the inflammable materials, such as fuel, chemicals and others;
5. Other places with no smoking signs and smoke free places.

Article 38. Places where specific Smoking Areas shall be established

Places where specific smoking areas shall be established are as follows:

1. State and private offices;
2. Trade centers, department stores, guesthouses, hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues and markets;
3. Public places and crowded places such as passenger waiting halls, sport practice places and stadiums, clubs, temples, churches and public parks.

Part V

**TAKEN MEASURES TO COUNTER THE DETRIMENTAL
EFFECTS OF TOBACCO**

**Section 1
Assistance to Tobacco Addicts**

Article 39. Mobilization, inducing to Tobacco Quitting

Individuals and organizations shall pay attention to mobilize, induce and instruct methods to tobacco addicts to be aware and be understood on the detrimental effects of tobacco to smokers themselves, families, society and the economy in encouraging them to voluntarily reduce and restrict tobacco use and progressively quit smoking.

Article 40. Rehabilitation, Treatment

Tobacco addicts and victims of tobacco detrimental effects shall voluntarily accept the rehabilitation and treatment by the paying attention and assistance from family, community, society and hospitals.

Article 41. Assistance to Smoking Quitter

The assistance to voluntary individuals to quit smoking shall be carried out by Counseling and Assistance Units as follows:

1. To counsel and advice on smoking quitting;
2. To advice on smokers health conditions before and after quitting smoking;
3. To organize various activities for quitting smoking;
4. To provide the rehabilitation and treatment to those who voluntarily quit smoking by various ways and based on the real conditions.

Article 42. Role of Counseling and Assistance Units on Smoking Quitting

Counseling and Assistance Units on Smoking Quitting are established by the health sector, having its role on propaganda, health education, recommendation, advisory and necessary assistance to those who quit smoking; collect statistical data and information, monitor and supervise on the assistance of quitter smoking and regularly report on such activities to their superiors.

Article 43. Responsibilities of other Sectors on Smoking Quitters

In addition to the Counseling and Assistance Units, organizations, society, community, family and friends shall have responsibility to assist and support smoking quitters by providing recommendations and organizing various activities in order to avoid their relapse.

Article 44. Assistance to Person who Expose to Tobacco Smoke

Person who expose to tobacco smoke shall be assisted by providing recommendations on the detrimental effects of tobacco smoke and shall protect themselves by staying far away from smokers or have the right to propose to smokers to smoke elsewhere. When affecting and getting sick from tobacco smoke, they shall be received assistance, care and treatment, based on the real conditions.

Section 2

Tobacco Control Fund

Article 45. Tobacco Control Fund

The State promotes to establish the Tobacco Control Fund to perform the tobacco control works, mainly the propaganda, health education, smoking quitters rehabilitation and those who were affected by tobacco smoke and shall be used in various activities related to health promotion.

Article 46. Sources of Fund

The Tobacco Control Fund is obtained from the following main sources:

1. State budget;
2. Profit taxes from tobacco business operators, mentioning in the Tax Law;
3. Donation from domestic and international individuals and organizations;
4. Incomes from activities for tobacco control, such as: sports and athletic competitions; artistic and cultural performances and others.

Article 47. Management and Use of Fund

The Tobacco Control Fund shall be managed and used by the National Committee for Tobacco Control in accordance with the periodic work plans .

The said Fund shall be used for the activities mentioning in Article 45 of this Law in compliance to laws and regulations on state budget.

The establishment and activities of the Tobacco Control Fund is stipulated in the specific regulation.

Part VI

PROHIBITION ON TOBACCO

Article 48. Prohibition for Tobacco Business Operators

Tobacco business operators are prohibited to act as follows:

1. To advertise any form for the tobacco smoking promotion, the distribution, purchase and sale of tobacco products;
2. To produce, import, purchase and sell tobacco products being smuggled, counterfeit, expired, imitated, unlabelled, without health warning and without stamps as prescribed by laws and regulations;
3. To sell or distribute tobacco products in a disorderly manner, e.g. at the unauthorized places;
4. To produce cigarettes containing less than twenty sticks per pack, sell cigarettes in loose stick;
5. To sell cigarettes by all kind of automatic vending machines;
6. To allow children under eighteen years of age to buy or sell tobacco;
7. To mislead tobacco users on characteristics of tobacco products, such as trademarks, forms, colors or other logos;
8. To provide sponsorships for the interests of tobacco business;
9. To give bribes to related civil servants and officials;
10. To threaten, impede the duty performance of the related officials;
11. To commit other acts violating laws and regulations.

Article 49. Prohibition for Civil Servants and Officials

Civil servants and officials are prohibited to act as follows:

1. To abuse one's power, to use violence, coercion, threat to give or receive bribes causing losses to the interests of State, collectives and individuals resulting from tobacco control work;

2. To disclose State secrets, retain, delay or falsify documents, lack responsibility to accomplish assigned tobacco control works;
3. To protect and to be accomplices of unlawful tobacco business operators;
4. To commit other acts violating laws and regulations.

Article 50. Prohibition for Individuals and other Organizations

Individuals and other organizations are prohibited to act as follows:

1. To support advertisement for tobacco product promotion;
2. To smoke in prohibited places;
3. To induce and use others, e.g. children under eighteen years old to smoke and purchase-sell tobacco products;
4. To participate in illicit tobacco product production, importation and distribution;
5. To commit other acts violating laws and regulations.

Part VII

MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION OF TOBACCO CONTROL WORKS

Section 1

Management of Tobacco Control Works

Article 51. Tobacco Control Management Authority

The Government centrally and unanimously manages tobacco control works throughout the country by assigning the Ministry of Health to be the focal point for coordinating with other concerned sectors, in particular with Industry and Commerce, Finance, Information and Culture, Education sectors, and local related authorities.

Tobacco control management authority composed by:

1. Ministry of Health;
2. Provincial, City Health Departments;
3. District, Municipal Health Bureau.

To effectively perform the tobacco control works, The National Committee for Tobacco Control is officially established.

The organization and activities of the National Committee for Tobacco Control is stipulated in a specific regulation.

Article 52. Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Health

In the management of tobacco control works, the Ministry of Health has the following rights and duties:

1. To be the secretariat for the research and the formulation of strategic plan, policies, laws and regulations, plans of action and projects on tobacco control works to submit to the Government for consideration;
2. To widely disseminate strategic plans, policies, laws and regulations, plans, work plans and projects on tobacco control works ;
3. To direct and monitor the implementation of strategic plans, policies, laws and regulations, plans of action and projects on tobacco control works, including tobacco-related researches and analysis;
4. To form, train, upgrade, manage, use staff and personnel on tobacco control works in accordance with their roles;
5. To study, give comments to the proposal for tobacco enterprises establishment, such as: tobacco production manufactures, tobacco products importation and distribution companies;
6. To suspend or cancel decisions, orders, instructions and notices of lower authorities which are contradicted to laws and regulations on tobacco control;
7. To resolve administrative disputes and issue orders to units concerned to implement the prescribed measures and to be diligent in strict monitoring;
8. To direct the rehabilitation, treatment smoking quitters and those who were affected and gotten sick from tobacco;
9. To coordinate with other concerned sectors on tobacco control works and effectively manage and use the Tobacco Control Fund;
10. To liaise and cooperate with foreign countries and international organizations on tobacco control works;
11. To regularly evaluate, summarize and report on tobacco control works to the Government;
12. To perform other rights and duties prescribing in the laws and regulations.

Article 53. Rights and Duties of Provincial, City Health Departments

In the management of tobacco control works, Provincial, City Health Departments have the following rights and duties:

1. To translate strategic plans, policies, laws and regulations, plans, work plans and projects related to tobacco control works into their own detailed activities for implementation;
2. To disseminate laws and regulations, data and information on tobacco control works in accordance with their own responsibilities;
3. To direct and monitor tobacco control works implementation by the District, Municipal Health Bureau;

4. To direct Counseling and Assistance Units on smoking Quitting, in the performance with their tasks;
5. To consider and resolve the proposals on tobacco and tobacco products under their responsibilities or submit to the related superiors;
6. To study, give comments to the proposal of tobacco enterprises establishment within their responsibilities, such as: tobacco production manufactures, tobacco product importation and distribution companies;
7. To coordinate with other concerned sectors on tobacco control works and propose to use the Tobacco Control Fund, in accordance with regulations;
8. To liaise and cooperate with foreign countries and international organizations on assigned tobacco control works;
9. Regularly evaluate, summarize and report on tobacco control works to the Ministry of Health and to Provincial, City Authorities;
10. To perform other rights and duties prescribing in the laws and regulations.

Article 54. Rights and Duties of District, Municipal Health Bureau

In the management of tobacco control works, the District, Municipal Health Bureau shall have the following rights and duties:

1. To implement policies, plans of action, projects, laws and regulations, decisions, orders, instructions and notices issued by the Ministry of Health and Provincial, City Health Departments;
2. To disseminate laws and regulations, data and information on tobacco control works and detrimental effects of tobacco within their own responsibility;
3. To direct the Counseling and Assistance Units on Smoking Quitting and those who were affected and gotten sick from tobacco;
4. To consider and resolve the proposals related to tobacco according to their responsibility or submit to higher related authorities;
5. To coordinate with other sectors concerned on tobacco control works and propose to use the Tobacco Control Fund, including determination of tobacco selling places in accordance with regulations;
6. To regularly evaluate, summarize and report on tobacco control works to the Provincial, City Health Department and District, Municipal Administrative Authorities;
7. To perform other rights and duties prescribing in the laws and regulations.

Article 55. Rights and Duties of other Sectors

In the management of tobacco control works other concerned sectors and local administration authorities shall have the rights and duties to coordinate with public health sector on tobacco control works, in accordance with their roles to effectively

implement such works, including creating various events and activities on tobacco control, mobilizing and contributing to the Tobacco Control Fund.

Section 2

Inspection of Tobacco Control Works

Article 56. Tobacco Control Inspection Authority

Tobacco control inspection authority composed by:

1. Internal control authority, which is a part of tobacco control management authority mentioning in Article 51 of this Law;
2. External control authorities, which are the National Assembly, State Inspection Authority; State Audit Authority and people's monitoring and inspection.

Article 57. Contents of Tobacco Control Inspection

The contents of tobacco control inspection are as follows:

1. Inspect on the implementation of plans of action and projects, laws and regulations on tobacco control, including the execution of tobacco business contracts;
2. Inspect on tobacco product-related business operation, e.g. containing, packaging, labeling, health warning, importation, distribution; supervise on tobacco smoking in prohibited places;
3. Inspect on the movement of organizations, civil servants, officials and people on tobacco control works.

Article 58. Rights and Duties of Tobacco Control Inspection Authority

Tobacco control inspection authority shall have the following rights and duties:

1. To coordinate with other internal and international parties concerned on tobacco control works;
2. To approve the methods, measures to be taken on the inspection outcomes or submit to higher authority;
3. To evaluate, summarize, lessons learnt and report on tobacco control inspection to higher authority.

Article 59. Forms of Inspection

Inspection may be carried out according to the regular systematic plan, out of the plan with advance notice or surprise inspection.

Part VIII

Rewards and Sanctions

Article 60. Rewards

Individuals or organizations having good achievements in implementing this Law, in particular those who have been a role model and be actively involved in the implementation of tobacco control works shall be appropriately rewarded or granted other appropriate benefit depending on each case.

Article 61. Measures towards violators

Individuals or organizations violating this Law, especially regulations on production, importation, distribution, sale-purchase, prohibited smoking areas, other prohibitions, shall be educated, warned, disciplinary measures, fined, compensation for civil damages or criminal punishment depending on the gravity of violations.

Article 62. Educational Measures

Individuals or organizations committing non-serious violations of laws and regulations on tobacco control, especially sale of tobacco to children under eighteen years of age, sale at the unauthorized places, smoking in prohibited areas for first time, shall be educated and warned.

Article 63. Disciplinary Measures

Civil servants and officials concerned violating laws and regulations on tobacco control shall be subject to disciplinary measures in the following cases:

1. Retaining, delaying tobacco-related documents that do not cause substantial losses;
2. Lacking of responsibility on assigned tobacco control works that cause minor losses and do not constitute a criminal offence;
3. Violations of other prohibitions mentioning in this Law that cause minor losses and are not elements of criminal offence.

The implementation of disciplinary measures towards civil servants and officials is stipulated in specific regulation.

Article 64. Fines

Individuals or organizations violating laws and regulations on tobacco control, e.g. production, importation, distribution, sale-purchase of tobacco products without labels, health warning on packaging materials; sale of tobacco in prohibited places, repeated sale of tobacco to children under eighteen years of age, sale of cigarettes containing in less than twenty sticks per pack, shall be fined.

The rates of fines are separately stipulated in a specific regulation.

Article 65. Civil Measures

Individuals or organizations violating laws and regulations on tobacco control that cause damage to others shall compensate for such damages.

Article 66. Criminal Measures

Individuals violating laws and regulations on tobacco control, such as violations of prohibiting provisions, that constitute a criminal offence shall be punished accordingly to the Criminal Law.

Part IX

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 67. National No Tobacco Day

The Lao PDR considers the 31st May of every year as the National No Tobacco Day by creating campaigns and various activities on tobacco control and health promotion.

Article 68. Implementation

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is in charge of strict implementation of this Law.

Article 69. Effectiveness

This Law shall be effective sixty days after the date of The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic issues its promulgating Decree.

Any rule, regulation and provision contradict this Law are hereby cancelled.

The President of National Assembly

H.E Thongsing THAMMAVONG