

MINISTER OF ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

ORDER

ON THE APPROVAL OF RULES FOR DISPLAYING TOBACCO HEALTH WARNINGS, TOBACCO PRODUCT BATCH NUMBERS, AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCE QUANTITIES WHEN LABELING TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

NO. 4-195 OF MAY 23, 2003

Vilnius

Pursuant to the 2003 plan for legal instrument harmonization (instrument code 3.23-T32), confirmed by the Resolution no. 292 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on March 5, 2003 (Official gazette 2003, no. 25-1019) and the implementation of Directive 2001/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2001 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco products.

1. I approve these rules (attached) for displaying tobacco health warnings, tobacco product batch numbers, and harmful substance quantities when labeling tobacco products to be sold in the Republic of Lithuania.

2. I establish that

2.1. the rules approved by this Law for displaying tobacco health warnings, tobacco product batch numbers, and harmful substance quantities when labeling tobacco products to be sold in the Republic of Lithuania shall come into effect on May 1, 2004

2.2. Tobacco products sold in the Republic of Lithuania before these rules came into effect may be labeled following the rules approved by this Law.

2.3. The sale of tobacco products, except cigarettes, which are supplied for sale before May 1, 2004 and are labeled in accordance with the requirements of the Rules for the labeling of tobacco products to be sold in the Republic of Lithuania, including the display of warnings and harmful substance quantities in tobacco products, which Rules were approved by Order no. 213 of the Minister of Economy on June 17, 1998, is permitted in the Republic of Lithuania until May 30, 2004.

3. I declare Order no. 213 of June 17, 1998 of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania "concerning the labeling of products to be sold in the Republic of Lithuania" to be no longer valid.

MINISTER OF ECONOMY

PETRAS ČESNA

APPROVED by
Order no. 4-195 of May 23, 2003
of the Minister of Economy of the
Republic of Lithuania

RULES FOR DISPLAYING TOBACCO HEALTH WARNINGS, TOBACCO PRODUCT BATCH NUMBERS, AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCE QUANTITIES WHEN LABELING TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. These rules specify the requirements for displaying warning messages about the harmful health effects of tobacco products, tobacco product batch numbers, and harmful substance quantities on the labels of tobacco product packages to be sold in the Republic of Lithuania.

2. The concepts used in these rules comply with the Law on Tobacco Control of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette 1996, No. 11-281) and the Rules for labeling and displaying prices for goods (merchandise) sold in the Republic of Lithuania, which Rules were confirmed by Order no. 170 of May 15, 2002 of the Minister of Economy (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 50-1927)

3. The tobacco product labeling information specified in these rules must be provided on each tobacco product pack (package) and on any external tobacco product package (hereinafter pack (package)) with the exception of transparent wrapping paper, if retail tobacco products wrapped in it may be sold to consumers.

4. The tobacco product labeling information shall be printed on an external surface of the pack (package).

The warnings that are specified in these Rules and must be shown on tobacco product packs (packages), other than those for cigarettes, can be provided on labels securely attached to the packs (packages) of said products.

5. The tobacco product labeling information specified in these Rules must be printed using clearly visible, indelible type and can in no way be hidden, obscured or disrupted by other written or pictorial material or by opening the pack (package).

6. Printing the labeling information, which is specified in these Rules, on the special tobacco product excise tax stamp is prohibited.

7. The use of "low-tar", "light", "ultra-light", "mild", and any other tobacco product pack (package) inscriptions, names, trademarks, pictures, images, or other symbols, asserting or creating the impression that specific tobacco products are less harmful than others, is prohibited.

II. THE WARNING MESSAGES TO BE DISPLAYED ON SMOKING TOBACCO PRODUCT PACKS (PACKAGES), THEIR LOCATION, AND THEIR SIZE

8. Each smoking tobacco product pack (package) must carry

8.1. one of the following warnings:

8.1.1. Smoking kills

8.1.2. Smoking seriously harms you and those around you.

8.2. and one of the additional warnings:

8.2.1. Smokers die younger

8.2.2. Smoking clogs your arteries and causes heart attacks and strokes

8.2.3. Smoking causes deadly lung cancer

8.2.4. Smoking while pregnant harms your child

8.2.5. Protect children from inhaling your cigarette smoke

8.2.6. Your doctor or pharmacist can help you stop smoking

8.2.7. Smoking is highly addictive; don't start!

8.2.8. Quitting smoking reduces the risk of deadly heart and lung diseases

8.2.9. Smoking can cause a slow and painful death

8.2.10. For help quitting smoking, see your family doctor

8.2.11. Smoking can slow blood circulation and cause impotence

8.2.12. Smoking causes aging of the skin

8.2.13. Smoking can damage sperm and reduce fertility

8.2.14. Smoke contains benzene, nitrosamines, formaldehyde, and hydrogen cyanides

9. The general warnings specified in paragraph 8.1 of these Rules must be printed at the bottom of the most visible (largest) surface of the tobacco product pack (package) and should cover at least 30 percent of the surface. The general warnings on the tobacco product packs (packages) must be rotated in such a way that regular display of each is guaranteed and so that during a calendar year, each of the warnings is displayed on the same number of tobacco product packs (packages) with the same name.

10. The additional warnings specified in paragraph 8.2 of these Rules must be printed in the lower part of the other most visible (largest) surface of the tobacco product pack (package), i.e. the one without the general warning, and cover at least 40 percent of this surface. The additional warnings on the tobacco packs (packages) must be rotated in such a way that regular display of each is guaranteed and so that during a calendar year, each of the warnings is displayed on the same number of tobacco product packs (packages) with the same name.

11. If the most visible surface of smoking tobacco product packs (packages) other than for cigarettes, exceeds 75 cm², the general and additional warnings specified in paragraph 8 of these Rules must cover at least 22.5 cm² of each most visible (largest) surface, on which they must be printed.

III. THE WARNING MESSAGES TO BE DISPLAYED ON NON-SMOKING TOBACCO PRODUCT PACKS (PACKAGES), THEIR LOCATION, AND THEIR SIZE

12. Each non-smoking tobacco product pack (package) must carry the following warning:
This tobacco product is harmful for health and addictive.

13. The warning specified by paragraph 12 of these Rules must be displayed at the bottom of the most visible surface of the tobacco product pack (package) and cover at least 30 per cent of this surface.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPLAYING THE TAR, NICOTINE AND CARBON MONOXIDE QUANTITIES (IN ONE CIGARETTE)

14. The lower part of one side surface of each cigarette pack (the third largest surface) and the third largest surface of external package must display the quantities of the harmful substances: tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide, which are contained in them (in one cigarette) or emitted during smoking. This announcement must cover at least 10 per cent of said surface of the cigarette pack (package).

15. The harmful substances that are in cigarettes or are emitted during smoking shall be indicated by the words: "tar", "nicotine", and "carbon monoxide", and each word shall be followed by the quantity in milligrams: the quantities of tar and carbon monoxide shall be shown as whole numbers, that of nicotine to an accuracy of a tenth of a milligram.

V. OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPLAYING WARNING MESSAGES AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCE QUANTITIES ON TOBACCO PRODUCT PACKS (PACKAGES)

16. The warning messages and harmful substance quantity information specified in these Rules shall be printed:

16.1. in the state language of the Republic of Lithuania

16.2. in black Helvetica bold type on a white background. The texts and information must occupy the largest possible proportion of the allocated area. The general warnings specified in paragraph 8 of these Rules must be printed on each cigarette pack in at least size 16 font, the additional warnings in at least size 12 font.

16.3. in lower-case letters, except the first letter of the warning and the first letter in the name of each harmful substance;

16.4. warnings and harmful substance quantities shall be centered in the allocated area and parallel to the top edge of the pack (package);

16.5. in a black border, which must be no narrower than 3 mm and no wider than 4 mm and must not touch the text of the warning or other provided information. The area occupied by the border shall be included in the area, which, pursuant to these Rules, must be assigned to the warning and harmful substance information. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be applicable when labeling non-smoking tobacco products.

17. Together with the general warnings, specified in paragraph 8.1 of these Rules, for smoking tobacco product packs (packages) and the warnings, specified in paragraph 12 of these Rules, for non-smoking tobacco packs (packages), the words, "The Ministry of Health warns:" must be displayed right above the border and, where no border is required for the warning, right above the warning. These words must be in black Helvetica bold type on a white background in at least size 10 font. The area allocated for printing these words cannot be included in the area, which, pursuant to these Rules, must be allocated for the warning.

VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPLAYING THE BATCH, TO WHICH TOBACCO PRODUCTS BELONG

18. The number or its equivalent of the batch, to which each tobacco product pack (package) belongs, must be marked on each tobacco product pack (package) in any appropriate manner so that it is possible to trace the tobacco product and determine the time and place of its manufacture.
