

**Presidency of the Republic**

**Approved:**

**DGLTE JO** 

**Law No. 2018-020 concerning the production, importation, distribution, sale, advertising, promotion and tobacco consumption and its products**

**Chapter One: General provisions**

**Article one: Purpose**

The purpose of this Law is to protect present and futures generations from the devastating health-related, social, environmental and economic effects of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

**Article 2: Scope**

This Law governs the production, manufacture, packaging, sale, and consumption of tobacco and its products, as well as exposure to tobacco smoke.

It also governs access to tobacco and its products, advertising, informing the population and protection of the environment against the harmful effects of tobacco.

**Article 3: Definitions**

For the purpose of the provisions of this Law, the words and expressions below shall have the following meanings:

**1°)-Accessory:** A product that can be used in the context of consumption of a tobacco product, and includes, in particular, pipes, cigarette holders, cigar rests, lighters or matches.

**2°)-To supply:** to sell, give, exchange, transport, deposit, deliver, furnish or assign the title of ownership of a tobacco product for the purpose of obtaining a financial or commercial advantage, or to arrange to do so or offer to do so, whether for a price or other payment, or free of charge.

**3°)-Health warning:** a graphic and textual message of warning on the harmful effects on health of tobacco consumption or exposure to tobacco smoke, the advantages of quitting smoking, or suggestions to quit smoking, and any other appropriate tobacco control message.

**4°)-Cigarette:** A product consisting entirely or partially of tobacco that is cut, chopped or processed, rolled in paper;

**5°)-Committee:** The Committee for Tobacco Control created by this Law.

**6°)-Illegal commerce:** practice or conduct prohibited by law involving the production, importation, shipping, receipt, possession, distribution, sale or purchase of tobacco or its products, including any practice or conduct intended to facilitate such activity;

**7°)-Electronic communication:** communication by radio, television, telephone and Internet;

**8°)-Institutional communication:** communication by or on behalf of a manufacturer, importer or distributor of tobacco products, the aim or purpose of which is to incite consumers to choose one brand of tobacco product over another;

**9°)-Components:** chemical products, including particles, vapors and gas in smoking or smokeless tobacco products;

**10°)-Distribution:** sale or assignment for free, or any other kind of donation of tobacco products;

**11°)-Distributor of tobacco products:** an apparatus or device built to contain tobacco products and capable of automatically selling a tobacco product upon insertion of a coin, token or similar object into the machine or device;

**12°)-Emission:** any substance or combination of substances produced by combustion or during the manufacture or consumption of a tobacco product;

**13°)-Child:** any person under the age of eighteen;

**14°)-Manufacturer:** a company or any person engaged in the manufacture, creation, production, processing, packaging and/or labeling of tobacco products;

**15°)-Second-hand smoke:** smoke produced by the combustion of a tobacco product, to which the smoke exhaled by the smoker is usually added;

**16°)-Smoking:** the act of holding or using a lit tobacco product, regardless of whether the smoke is or is not being actively inhaled or exhaled;

**17°)-Tar:** a carcinogenic substance which results from the combustion of tobacco;

**18°)-General public:** the entirety of the Mauritanian population, including non-

smokers and children;

**19°)- Tobacco industry:** companies engaging in the production, manufacture, sale and distribution of tobacco and tobacco products, as well as importers and exporters of such products;

**20°)-Ingredient:** any substance other than the leaves and other natural or untransformed or unprocessed parts of the tobacco plant used in the manufacture or preparation of a tobacco product and still present in the finished product, even in modified form, including the paper, filter, inks and glues;

**21°)-Work place:** any place used by people in the course of their work or in the context of their employment.

‘Work’ not only refers to remunerated tasks, but also to volunteer work if it involves a type of work that is usually paid. Moreover, “work places” not only include the places where the work is performed, but also all attached places commonly used by the workers in the context of their employment, including, for example, hallways, elevators, staircases, entrance halls, shared facilities, cafeterias, bathrooms, lounges, dining rooms, as well as out buildings such as sheds or warehouses.

Vehicles used in the course of work are considered work places and should be specifically designated as such.

Particular attention should also be paid to work places that are places of residence or accommodation as well, such as prisons or institutions for the mentally ill.

These places also constitute work places for other people, who should be protected from exposure to tobacco smoke.

**22°)-“Enclosed” or “indoor” places:** this includes any space covered by a roof or surrounded by one or several walls or partitions, regardless of the types of materials used to make the roof, the wall or the partitions, or whether it is a permanent or temporary structure.

**23°)-Public place:** any place to which the public has access for free, or in exchange for payment;

**24°)-Tobacco Control:** a whole series of strategies to reduce supply, demand and harmful effects, seeking to improve the health of the population by eliminating or reducing its

consumption of tobacco products and its exposure to tobacco smoke;

**25°) Meneygé:** local name of tobacco sold in bulk, in leaves or in powder.

**26°)-Nicotine:** major nicotinic alkaloid and natural component of tobacco, responsible for the addiction caused by tobacco;

**27°)-Pack:** package, pouch, box or other packaging containing a tobacco product or multiple packs of tobacco products (such as cartons), and includes labels and other written or graphic information that appears underneath or inside;

**28°)-Sponsorship:** any kind of contribution to any event or activity having as its purpose or effect to promote, either directly or indirectly, a tobacco product or the use of tobacco;

**29°)-Display:** display window, shelf or other support in which a tobacco product is placed while awaiting sale, and which is put in fixed or mobile places and used chiefly to display tobacco products intended for retail sale;

**30°)- Tobacco product:** a product made entirely or partially from leaf tobacco as its raw material, and intended to be smoked, sucked, chewed or sniffed.

**31°)- Promotion:** extensive advertising, any commercial act or practice with the purpose of encouraging, either directly or indirectly, the purchase or consumption of a tobacco product, or of a brand of tobacco, or to make people familiar with a tobacco product or a brand of tobacco, or to create an association with the former or the latter;

**32°)-Advertising for tobacco and the promotion of tobacco:** any kind of communication, recommendation or commercial action for the purpose or effect of promoting, either directly or indirectly, a tobacco product or the use of tobacco;

**33°) Corporate social responsibility:** any kind of activity or action conducted by the tobacco industry seeking to appear as though it were adopting responsible behavior by making contributions to good causes, or otherwise undertaking to promote “socially responsible” elements of their commercial practices. This involves particularly, though not exclusively, financial or in-kind contributions to organizations, such as community, health-related, social or environmental organizations, directly or through the intermediation of other agencies.

**34°)-Tobacco:** a herbaceous plant of the *solanaceae* family whose leaves are

processed and presented in various forms for consumption: snuff, smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco;

**35°)- Public transportation:** any means of transportation for people, including elevators;

**36°)-Vendor:** a person who provides a tobacco product in exchange for payment in cash or other form of payment, and includes any manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, importer, exporter and retailer;

#### **Article 4: Simple meaning**

Any word or expression that is not defined shall have the simple and ordinary meaning that is usually attributed to it, unless the context requires otherwise, and is to be interpreted in a way that will be in keeping with the objectives and the spirit of this Law.

#### **Article 5: Application of expressions**

Expressions in the singular or plural apply the same way in the plural or singular, respectively.

Expressions defined as nouns or verbs have the corresponding meaning of the verbs or nouns, respectively.

#### **Article 6: National Committee for Tobacco Control**

A National Committee for Tobacco Control is hereby created to coordinate tobacco control activities, and to ensure the mobilization of the financial resources necessary for financing tobacco control activities.

This committee is placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Health.

The attributions, composition and functioning of the National Committee for Tobacco Control, as well as the mechanisms for financing tobacco control activities, are to be set by decrees adopted in the Council of Ministers at the proposal of the Minister of Public Health.

#### **Article 7: National Fund for Tobacco Control**

A National Fund for Tobacco Control is hereby created for financing tobacco control activities.

The attributions of the National Fund for Tobacco Control and its management and financing mechanisms are to be set by decrees adopted by the Council of Ministers

at the proposal of the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Finance.

## **Chapter Two: Information, education and communication**

### **Article 8: Raising public awareness**

The Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with actors in tobacco control, shall promote informing, educating and raising awareness of the public on the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and exposure to smoke through national awareness campaigns.

### **Article 9: National programs for raising awareness**

The Ministry of Public Health shall initiate programs for raising awareness and providing training on the harmful effects of tobacco and its products in support of actors in tobacco control to strengthen their competencies in informing and educating the public in an appropriate and lasting manner.

### **Article 10: Raising awareness at the local level**

Each local territorial or municipal government, acting in collaboration with civil society and the Ministry of Public Health, shall organize education and information campaigns on tobacco within their jurisdictions.

### **Article 11: Teaching about the harmful effects of tobacco**

Using information provided by the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education shall incorporate issues involving the harmful health effects of tobacco consumption and exposure to smoke into subjects taught at public and private educational institutions at all levels, including systems of informal instruction.

### **Article 12: Content of information and education**

Information and education on the harmful effects of tobacco shall include services provided by health service providers.

The Ministry of Public Health shall ensure training for health service providers so that they shall become skilled at communicating information and providing education on the harmful effects of tobacco consumption in an appropriate manner.

## **Chapter Three: Tobacco and tobacco products**

### **Article 13: Use of ingredients**

It is prohibited to use the following ingredients:

- Ingredients that can improve the taste of tobacco products.
- Ingredients that have coloring properties in tobacco products.

- Ingredients that create the impression that the product has beneficial health effects. The tobacco industry is required to communicate to the Ministry of Public Health the components and ingredients used in the manufacture of tobacco products.

Anyone who does not respect this provision shall be punished by a fine of fifty thousand Ouguiya (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

#### **Article 14: Compliance with standards**

It is prohibited to manufacture, import or sell a tobacco product that is not in compliance with the provisions of this Law and its regulatory texts.

Anyone who does not respect this provision shall be punished by a fine of fifty thousand Ouguiya (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

The closing of an establishment or industrial facility can be ordered for a period of fifteen (15) days at least, and thirty (30) days at most.

In the event of a subsequent conviction, the definitive closing of the establishment or industrial facility shall be ordered.

In addition to the penal sanctions indicated, the seized products will be destroyed, pursuant to the procedures in force.

#### **Article 15: Authorized content levels**

The maximum content levels authorized for nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide, and other components of tobacco products, as well as standards concerning their measurement will be set by administrative order of the Minister of Public Health.

#### **Article 16: Control of content levels**

Each year, each manufacturer or importer, for each brand of tobacco products that it manufactures or imports, must submit to the Committee the results of tests concerning nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide content levels, conducted under conditions set by administrative order of the Minister of Public Health.

They must annually submit to the Ministry of Public Health information concerning brands manufactured or imported and the ingredients used for the manufacture of such products.

Lists concerning the information that must be communicated to the Ministry of Public Health are to be determined by administrative order of the Minister of Public Health.

**Article 17: Non-observance of content levels**

Anyone who does not respect the provisions of Article 16 will be punished by imprisonment of from one to two years and a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya, or subject to one of these two punishments.

The closing of the establishment or industrial facility can be ordered for a period of fifteen (15) days at least, and thirty (30) days at most.

In the event of a subsequent conviction, the definitive closing of the establishment or industrial facility shall be ordered.

In addition to the penal sanctions indicated, seized products will be destroyed pursuant to the procedures in force.

**Article 18: Protection of children**

It is prohibited to sell a tobacco product to anyone under the age of eighteen.

Anyone who does not respect this provision shall be punished by a fine of twenty thousand (20,000) to fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya.

**Article 19: Similar objects**

It is prohibited to manufacture or to sell to children objects and toys that resemble tobacco products.

Any violation of this provision is susceptible to a fine of five thousand (5,000) Ouguiya to fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya.

**Article 20: Vending machines**

It is prohibited to sell tobacco products using vending machines.

Anyone who violates this prohibition shall be punished by a fine of twenty thousand (20,000) to forty thousand (40,000) Ouguiya.

**Article 21: Prohibition of the sale of tobacco products**

The sale of tobacco products is prohibited in academic and health care institutions, as well as at public and semi-public athletic facilities, and private institutions used by the public.

Points of sale must exhibit signs reminding people of the danger associated with tobacco consumption.

The form and content of the message are to be determined by a joint

administrative order of the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Commerce.

Tobacco vendors must file a declaration of existence with the administrative authorities having jurisdiction over their residence, and must have a license to sell tobacco products.

Violation of any of the provisions in this article is susceptible to a fine of five thousand (5,000) Ouguiya to fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya.

In cases of repeat offenses, the punishment is doubled.

The same punishment is applicable to co-offenders and accomplices to the offense.

#### **Article 22: Prohibition of free distribution**

The free distribution of tobacco products to the public is prohibited.

Violation of this provision will be punished by a fine of five thousand (5,000) Ouguiya to fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya.

#### **Article 23: Points of sale**

Points of sale of tobacco products and the characteristics of premises intended to receive them are to be defined by a joint administrative order of the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Commerce.

Any violation of this provision will be punished by a fine of five thousand (5,000) Ouguiya to fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya.

#### **Article 24: Delivery by mail**

To cause the delivery of a tobacco product, or to send such product by mail or express messenger in exchange for payment, is prohibited, unless the delivery is carried out between manufacturers, distributors, wholesale vendors or retail vendors, or other persons engaging in a legal commercial activity involving tobacco products.

It is prohibited to advertise an offer concerning the delivery or shipment by mail or express messenger of a tobacco product to the interior of Mauritania.

Violation of the provisions of this article is punishable by a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000) to two hundred thousand (200,000) Ouguiyas.

#### **Article 25: Illegal trade in tobacco products**

The illegal trade in tobacco products is prohibited.

Violation of this prohibition will be punished by a fine of five thousand (5,000) Ouguiya to ten thousand (10,000) Ouguiya.

## **Chapter Four: Composition, labeling and packaging**

### **Article 26: Health warnings**

Packs or cartons or any other kind of external packaging of tobacco products for sale in Mauritania must exhibit a health warning covering at least 70 % of the surface on the front and back surfaces.

These warnings must be presented in the form of images and texts, and be written in the official languages of Mauritania.

Procedures for packaging, labeling and printing on packs, cartons or other kinds of packaging are to be set by administrative order of the Minister of Public Health.

### **Article 27: Sanctions for failures involving health warnings**

Any violation of the provisions of Article 26, will be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one hundred million [*sic*, i.e., thousand](100,000) Ouguiya.

The closing of the establishment or industrial facility can be ordered for a period of fifteen (15) days at least, and thirty (30) days at most.

In the event of a subsequent conviction, the definitive closing of the establishment or industrial facility shall be imposed.

In addition to the penal sanctions indicated, seized products will be destroyed pursuant to the procedures in force.

### **Article 28: Standards for manufacture and labeling**

Tobacco products being produced and those intended for sale must be in compliance with standards to be defined by administrative order of the Minister of Public Health.

Anyone who does not respect this provision shall be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one million (1,000,000) Ouguiya.

The closing of the establishment or industrial facility can be ordered for a period of fifteen (15) days at least, and thirty (30) days at most.

In the event of a subsequent conviction, the definitive closing of the establishment or industrial facility shall be imposed.

In addition to the penal sanctions indicated, seized products will be destroyed pursuant to the procedures in force.

### **Article 29: Packaging**

All tobacco products must be packaged and labeled.

It is prohibited to package a tobacco product in a manner that is not in compliance with this Law and its regulatory texts.

It is prohibited to use on packages of tobacco products, texts and false, misleading or deceptive terms, or terms that are likely to give an erroneous impression regarding the characteristics, health effects, risks or emissions of a product, including terms, descriptions, trademarks, figurative or other signs that either directly or indirectly give the false impression that one particular tobacco product is less harmful than others.

Posting of dates of expiration on any of the different kinds of packaging and labeling of tobacco products is prohibited.

It is prohibited to mark on any kind of packaging and labeling figures concerning emissions and components, particularly but not exclusively, levels of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide, on the different kinds of packaging and labeling.

Anyone who violates any of these provisions shall be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

### **Article 30: Required statements**

Packs, cartons or any other kind of external packaging of tobacco products must display statements concerning the composition of the product, lot number, the date of manufacture and the name and address of the manufacturer.

Any violation of this provision will be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

The closing of the establishment or industrial facility can be ordered for a period of fifteen (15) days at least and thirty (30) days at most.

In the event of a subsequent conviction, the definitive closing of the establishment or industrial facility shall be imposed.

### **Article 31: Tax stamps:**

Tobacco and its derivative products intended for sale within the territory of Mauritania must, after settlement of duties and taxes, exhibit a tax stamp and be contained in packages, boxes, cases or packs bearing the statement “*Sale authorized in*

*Mauritania only*”

This statement is to be printed below the trademark, in indelible and very prominent characters, with a height that cannot be less than five (5) millimeters.

Anyone who violates this provision will be punished by imprisonment of one (1) year to five (5) years and a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya, or subject to one of these two punishments.

In addition to the penal sanctions indicated, seized products will be destroyed pursuant to the procedures in force.

**Article 32: Prospectus**

Manufacturers or importers of tobacco or tobacco products are required to submit to the Minister of Public Health in the manner and in accordance with procedures to be defined by administrative order of the Minister of Public Health, a prospectus containing the required information on the product and its emissions, as well as on the health hazards and effects on health associated with the use of the tobacco product and its emissions.

Any violation of this provision will be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

**Article 33: Misleading impressions**

Any packaging or labeling of tobacco products that helps to give a misleading impression that the product is less harmful than others is prohibited.

Any violation of this provision will be punished by a fine of fifty thousand(50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

**Chapter Five: Promotion, advertising, underwriting and sponsoring**

**Article 34: Prohibition of advertising**

All forms of advertising, sponsoring and promotion of tobacco and its products are prohibited.

Violation of this prohibition will be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

**Article 35: Prohibition of underwriting, sponsoring and “Corporate social responsibility” by the tobacco industry**

Any kind of underwriting, sponsoring or “corporate social responsibility” activities by the tobacco industry are prohibited.

Violation of this prohibition will be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

**Article 36: Prohibition of deceptive advertising**

Advertising or publicity on behalf of an institution, a service, an activity, a product or an article other than tobacco is prohibited, when, owing to its graphics, its presentation, the use of a brand, an advertising emblem or any other distinctive sign, it calls to mind tobacco or a tobacco product.

Violation of this prohibition will be punished by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) Ouguiya to one hundred thousand (100,000) Ouguiya.

**Article 37: Prohibition of transactions involving tobacco products**

The following acts constitute crimes punishable by imprisonment of three (03) to five (05) years and a fine of five thousand (05) to ten (10) thousand Ouguiya, or subject to one of these two punishments:

- manufacturing, distributing for free or selling candies, toys or any other object with the shape of, or otherwise calling to mind, a tobacco product;
- providing a tobacco product for free or in exchange for purchasing a product or service, or the performance of a service;
- providing an accessory on which there appears an element of the brand of a tobacco product for free or in exchange for purchasing a product, or the performance of a service;
- offering or giving a gift, a discount or the right to participate in a contest to a buyer or third party by the manufacturer, importer, or retailer, either directly or indirectly, in exchange for the purchase of a tobacco product.

In cases of repeat offenses, the punishment is to be doubled.

The same punishment is applicable to co-offenders and accomplices to such offense.

## **Chapter Six: Protection against exposure to tobacco smoke and support with quitting tobacco**

### **Article 38: Public places and work places**

It is prohibited to smoke in all public places.

Those who are in violation of these provisions are to be punished by a fine of five hundred (500) Ouguiya.

The conditions for the implementation of this article are to be set by a joint administrative order of the Minister of Public Health and the Ministers in question.

### **Article 39: Public Transportation**

It is prohibited to smoke in all public transportation vehicles.

Anyone who does not respect this ban shall incur a fine of five hundred Ouguiya (500 UM). This sanction is to be multiplied by two in cases of confirmed repeat offenses.

### **Article 40: Signs prohibiting smoking**

All managers of public places or public transportation are required to prominently post therein the prohibition of smoking.

This is the primary guarantee of observance of the prohibition of smoking in places under their responsibility.

Anyone who does not respect this ban shall incur a fine of five hundred Ouguiya (500 UM). This sanction is to be multiplied by two in cases of confirmed repeat offenses.

### **Article 41: Help with quitting tobacco**

Acting through the Committee, the Ministry of Public Health shall draft and implement policies and programs to help with quitting tobacco.

## **Chapter Seven: Protection of health policies concerning tobacco control against commercial and other interests of the tobacco industry**

### **Article 42: Information on tobacco and its products**

The tobacco industry is required to provide the competent authorities with all information concerning their activities and the components and ingredients of tobacco products.

Violation of this provision will be punished by a fine of five hundred thousand (50,000) [sic] Ouguiya to one million (100,000) [sic].

The government shall make public its relations with the tobacco industry.

### **Article 43: Protection against interference by the tobacco industry**

The tobacco industry and its component parts are required to remain separate from consulting bodies and from providing assistance in reaching decisions concerning the country's health policies.

Moreover, it is prohibited to grant them any privileges.

Violation of this prohibition will be punished by a fine of five hundred thousand (50,000) [sic] Ouguiya to one million (100,000) [sic].

## **Chapter Eight: Liability of the tobacco industry**

### **Article 44: Criminal and civil liability**

The tobacco industry bears criminal and civil liability for the damages that its activities cause to the population and the environment.

In the event of violation of this provision, it shall incur a fine equal to ten times the amount of the harm suffered by the environment.

It is also required to make reparations for harm suffered by people.

### **Article 45: Taking legal action**

Any natural or juridical person whose interests are harmed by the activities of the tobacco industry can sue the latter before the competent jurisdictions.

**Article 46: Standing to take civil action**

Organizations whose statutory purpose involves tobacco control, as well as consumer organizations that are duly established, have standing to take civil action for violations of the provisions of this Law.

**Chapter Nine: Common penalties**

**Article 47: Posting of judgment**

The jurisdiction in question can, in all cases, order posting of the judgment of conviction for violations of the legislation on tobacco in places that it will designate, or insertion of the complete or excerpted text thereof in one or several newspapers – all at the expense of the convicted party.

It can, moreover, order the confiscation and destruction of the objects seized.

**Article 48: Repeat offenses**

In cases of repeat offenses, the punishments incurred under this Law are to be doubled.

**Article 49: Supplementary fines**

The tribunal hearing proceedings for a violation of this Law may, if it ascertains that the offender has derived financial benefit from the perpetration of the offense, impose upon him, over and above the maximum indicated, a supplementary fine that the court deems to be the equivalent of such benefit.

**Article 50: Additional obligations**

In addition to the punishments indicated by this Law and taking into account the nature of the offense, the court may impose on the offender all or part of the following requirements:

- the suspension of all acts or activities that could involve continuation of the offense or repeat offenses;
- the suspension of the sale of tobacco products, and this for a period of at least one year, in cases of repeat offenses;

- the posting of a bond or the deposit of a sum of money to guarantee observance of an order handed down;
- reimbursement, in whole or in part, of the Government for expenses incurred by measures taken on its behalf in response to the facts that gave rise to the finding of guilt;
- the allocation of a sum of money intended to enable research on such tobacco products as it may deem appropriate.

**Article 51: Allocation of fines**

Proceeds from fines imposed in the application of this Law are to be allocated as follows:

- 60 % to the public treasury;
- 40 % to the National Fund for Tobacco Control

**Article 52: Special tax**

A special tax is to be levied on all tobacco products, the procedures for which are to be set and periodically reviewed by the Law of Finance, following coordination between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Public Health. This tax should progressively attain the amount of 100% of the price of the tobacco product.

**Chapter Ten: Verification of violations of the law on tobacco**

**Article 53: Sanitary police**

The sanitary police are charged with investigating and ascertaining violations of the law on tobacco through written reports.

**Article 54: Raids by the sanitary police**

The agents of the Sanitary Police, in uniform and showing their professional identification, can go into all public or private places that receive the general public to ascertain violations of the law on tobacco.

**Article 55: Assignment of the Sanitary Police**

Agents of the Sanitary Police can be assigned to duty by the Public Prosecutor of the Republic, the examining magistrate, and the Officers of the Judiciary Police in order to endow them with technical competency.

**Article 56: Written reports**

Agents of the sanitary police shall forward to their direct superiors written reports registering violations of this Law.

**Article 57: Notification**

Notification of judgments handed down involving the law on tobacco shall be communicated to the head of the sanitary police.

**Chapter 11: Transitory and final provisions**

**Article 58: Compliance with this Law**

The tobacco industries shall have one year to enter into compliance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article 59: Supersession**

This Law supersedes any earlier provisions that are at variance with it.