Ordinance on tobacco products and products containing tobacco substitutes intended for smoking
(Ordinance on tobacco, OTab)
Of October 27, 2004 (Status as of October 1, 2012)

The Swiss Federal Council,
In light of Arts. 21, sub-paragraph 1 and 2, 37 and 38, sub-paragraph 2, of the federal law of October 9, 1992, on foodstuffs, 1

In light of Arts. 4, sub-paragraph 1, 7, 9 and 14, sub-paragraph 1, of the Law of June 12, 2009, on product safety (LSPro), 2

In application of the federal law of October 6, 1995, on technical barriers to commerce techniques commerce (LETC) 3, 4

Orders:

Section 1 General provisions

Art. 1 5 Purpose and other applicable law 6

1 This ordinance applies to tobacco products and products containing tobacco substitutes intended to be smoked, for which it governs their:
   a. Manufacture;
   b. Labeling;
   c. Advertising and distribution to consumers.

2 Unless otherwise provided by this Ordinance, tobacco products and products containing tobacco substitutes intended to be smoked are both governed by the Ordinance of November 23, 2005, on foodstuffs and everyday objects (ODAIIOUs), 7 and by the relevant ordinances of the DFI, with the restrictions of Art.1, sub-paragraph 3, ODAIOUs. 8

RO 2004 4533

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1 RS 817.0
2 RS 930.11
3 RS 946.51
5 New content as per Ch. II 3 of Annex 2 to the Ordinance of Nov. 23, 2005 on foodstuffs and everyday objects, in force since Jan 1, 2006 (RO 2005 5451).
6 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 15, 2006, in force since Jan 1, 2007 (RO 2006 5161).
7 RS 817.02
8 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 15, 2006, in force since Jan 1, 2007 (RO 2006 5161).
Art.  2 Definitions

In this Ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

a. **tobacco**: leaves or parts of leaves or stems from the plants *Nicotiana tabacum* L. and *Nicotiana rustica* L.;

b. **raw tobacco**: tobacco that is dried, fermented or processed in accordance with other standard industrial procedures;

c. **reconstituted tobacco** (or homogenized tobacco): leaves, products in the shape of leaves or flakes manufactured from raw tobacco finely milled then agglomerated, or from actual manufacturing wastes processed in the same manner, in which the vegetable parts are no longer macroscopically identifiable; reconstituted it contains in mass at least 70% raw tobacco in dry matter;

d. **tobacco products**: products composed in whole or in part of tobacco, and in particular those intended to be smoked (cigars, cigarettes and similar products, cut tobacco and rolling tobacco), sniffed, sucked or chewed;

e. **tobacco substitutes**: substances other than tobacco intended to be smoked.

Section 2 Tobacco substitutes and prohibited products

Art. 3 Tobacco substitutes

1 Products containing tobacco substitutes that are intended to be smoked:

a. must by extension satisfy the requirements set for tobacco products intended to be smoked;  
b. must not directly or in an unexpected manner be harmful to health, and  
c. must not have any psychotropic effect.

2 The following information and elements must be sent to the Federal Office of Public Health (OFSP – *Office federal de la santé publique*), before the product is put on the market:

a. the composition and expected use of the product;  
b. the product’s tar and carbon monoxide content;  
c. an attestation proving that the product does not contain nicotine;  
d. an attestation proving that the product is not directly or in an unexpected manner harmful to health, and that it has no psychotropic effects;  
e. one packaging unit;  
f. a sample of the product.

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9 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov 26, 2008, in force since Jan 1, 2009 (RO 2008 6141).

10 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov 26, 2008, in force since Jan 1, 2009 (RO 2008 6141).
Art. 4

Art. 5 Prohibited products

1 Tobacco products intended for oral use may not be imported or sold.

2 Such products are considered to be those presented in the form of a powder, fine particles or any combination of these forms, particularly those presented in pouch portions, in porous pouches or in any other form. Excepted from this are products intended to be smoked or chewed.

Section 3 Manufacture

Art. 6 Substances used for the manufacture of tobacco products

1 The only tobacco products allowed without authorization are those that, apart from raw tobacco, do not contain anything other than the following substances, and this within the percentages indicated (the proportions refer to dry matter of the finished product, excluding possible pockets of materials foreign to tobacco):

   a. Sapid ingredients: in total amounts not to exceed 15 % of mass, for cut or rolling tobacco, 20 % of mass, for water pipe tobacco, 70 % of mass; they are defined as follows:

      1. scents, as indicated in Annex 3, Ch. 24, the DFI Ordinance of November 23, 2005, on labeling and advertising for foodstuffs (OEDAI),
      2. Folio liatris; the total content of coumarine may not exceed 0.1 % of mass,
      3. sugars, honey and spices, as well as any other innocuous part of plants and their extracts,
      4. sweeteners as indicated in Annex 1, section c, Ch. 1, of the DFI ordinance of November 23, 2005, on additives (OAdd), with the exception of sucralose E955 and aspartame-acesulfame salt E962;

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11 Rescinded by Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 26, 2008, effective as of Jan 1, 2009 (RO 2008 6141).
12 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 26, 2008, in force since Jan 1, 2009 (RO 2008 6141).
14 RS 817.022.21
Moistening agents: In total amounts not to exceed 10% of mass, and 60% of mass for water pipe tobacco; the authorized moistening agents are: glycerol, sorbitol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, triethylene glycol, orthophosphoric acid and alpha-glycerophosphoric acid and their sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium salts.

c. Ash whitening products and combustion accelerators: The following are authorized: aluminium hydroxide, aluminium oxide, aluminium silicate, aluminium sulfate, alum, silicic acid, talc, magnesium oxide, titanium dioxide, carbonic, acetic, malic, citric, tartaric, lactic and formic acids and their sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium salts, ammonium, sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium phosphates, ammonium chloride and ammonium sulfate; for cigars and cut tobacco: the above and potassium nitrate.

d. Preservatives, for which, in case of combined use, the sum of all quotients derived for each agent used by dividing the amount added by the maximum authorized content must not exceed 1:

1. For cigarettes:
   - Benzoic acid as well as sodium, potassium and calcium salts and sorbic acid, as well as its potassium and calcium salts, up to 3 g per kilogram each
   - Ethyl or propyl ester of 4-Hydroxybenzoic acid, as well as sodium salts, up to 1 g per kilogram each,

2. For cigars, cut tobacco, rolling tobacco and reconstituted tobacco:
   - Benzoic acid, as well as its sodium, potassium and calcium salts, sorbic acid and its potassium and calcium salts and ethyl or propyl ester of 4-Hydroxybenzoic acid and its sodium salts, up to 5 g per kilogram each
   - 2(Thiazolyl-4)-2-benzimidazole and formic acid, up to 1.5 g per kilogram each,

3. For water pipe tobacco:
   - Propionic acid up to 5 g per kilogram.

e. Adhesives and bonds: Gelling and thickening agents pursuant to Annex 3 of OAdd, as well as gelatin, shellac, collodion, ethyl cellulose, acetyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl methyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl guar and glyoxal; furthermore, for envelope glues: aqueous dispersions of polyvinyl acetate and polyvinyl acetate copolymers.

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16 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of March 7, 2008, in force since April 1, 2008 (RO 2008 1187).
17 Introduced by Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 15, 2006, in force since Jan 1, 2007 (RO 2006 5161).
2 The proportion of substances listed in sub-paragraph 1, letter a) to e), concerning the dry matter of the finished product, may not exceed 25 % of the mass in cigarettes, cigars and similar articles for smokers, 80 % of the mass in water pipe tobacco and 30 % of the mass in other tobacco products; pockets of materials foreign to tobacco are not taken into account.\textsuperscript{18}

3 Upon receiving a justified request, the OFSP may authorize other substances. Authorizations are limited in time and published in the official Swiss bulletin of commerce and on the Internet.\textsuperscript{19}

\textbf{Art. 7} Finish on cigars

1 Dry or moist powder for cigars and similar products intended to equalize or accentuate their color is permissible if tobacco powder is used with small amounts of Campeche wood extract, “yellow wood” (Apocynaceae), buckthorn berries (\textit{Rhamnus cathartica}), licorice juice or walnut extract.

2 Furthermore, dyes allowed in foodstuffs pursuant to Annex 1, section a), of the Ordinance of March 27, 2002 on additives (OAdd),\textsuperscript{20} may be used to equalize coloring.

\textbf{Art. 8} Cigarettes: maximum content for tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide

The smoke of cigarettes distributed in Switzerland may not present, per cigarette, content greater than:

\begin{itemize}
    \item a. 10 mg for tar;
    \item b. 1.0 mg for nicotine;
    \item c. 10 mg for carbon monoxide.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Art. 8a}\textsuperscript{21} Ignition propensity of cigarettes

The ignition propensity of cigarettes distributed in Switzerland must be reduced so that, in a test sample of cigarettes, at most 25 % of the cigarettes will burn down their whole length without a single puff being taken.

\textsuperscript{18} New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of 15 nov. 2006, in force since Jan 1, 2007 (RO \textbf{2006} 5161).

\textsuperscript{19} New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Aug. 22, 2012, in force since Oct 1, 2012 (RO \textbf{2012} 4857).

\textsuperscript{20} [RO \textbf{2002} 1201, \textbf{2004} 1843 3039, \textbf{2005} 1065. RO \textbf{2005} 6191 Art. 7]. See the current Ordinance of Nov. 23, 2005, on additives (RS \textbf{817.022.31}).

Art. 8b Compliance with the requirements of Art. 8 and 8a

1 Any party that places cigarettes on the market must be able to provide proof that they are in compliance with the requirements set forth in Art. 8 and 8a.

2 Cigarettes in compliance with the technical standards indicated in Art. 9, sub-paragraph 4, are presumed to satisfy the requirements set forth in Art. 8 and 8a.

3 Any party that places cigarettes on the market that do not satisfy the technical standards indicated in Art. 9, sub-paragraph 4, must be able to provide proof that they satisfy in another way the requirements set forth in Art. 8 and 8a.

Art. 9 Test laboratory, methods of measurement and tests of ignition propensity

1 Measurements of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide content, as well as tests of cigarette ignition propensity must be performed by a test laboratory that is:
   a. accredited in Switzerland pursuant to the provisions of the Ordinance of June 17, 1996 on accreditation and designation;
   b. recognized by Switzerland in the framework of an international agreement; or
   c. authorized or recognized in another way in accordance with Swiss law.

2 The test report or attestation of compliance drawn up by a foreign establishment that is not recognized in terms of sub-paragraph 1 has no probatory value to establish:
   a. that the test or evaluation procedures for compliance that were applied satisfy Swiss requirements; and
   b. that the foreign establishment has qualifications equivalent to those required in Switzerland.

3 Measurements and tests are to be conducted in accordance with the state of knowledge and technical proficiency.

4 Annexes 1 and 2 of this Ordinance specify the technical standards capable of meeting the requirements for processes of measurements and tests.

5 The OFSP updates Annexes 1 and 2 of this Ordinance in consultation with the Secretary of State for the Economy (SECO). When it issues technical standards,
the OFSP shall see to it that they are, as much as possible, harmonized internationally.28

**Art. 10** Obligation to declare

1 Any company that manufactures or imports tobacco products must notify the OFSP of the following things concerning the tobacco products that it distributes in Switzerland:

   a. List 1: specific substances added to raw tobacco by a brand: listing by type, by brand and by amount used (in decreasing order), the substances presenting a percentage in weight greater than 0.1 % of the raw tobacco used; the substances present in lesser amounts can be grouped in one single category (i.e., scents);

   b. List 2: functions and maximum amounts of all substances added to raw tobacco: listing by type and in alphabetical order, all additives added to tobacco products; for all substances, the function and maximum amount used in a tobacco product must be indicated;

   c. List 3: substances added in components without tobacco: listing by type and in alphabetical order all substances added to components without tobacco (i.e., paper, glues, filters); for all substances, the maximum amount used in a tobacco product must be indicated;

   d. List 4: harmful substances in cigarettes: listing by brand of the tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide content in each cigarette.

2 The toxicological data for the additives used, with and without combustion, must be indicated as long as they are known by the person submitting the declaration.

3 Indications must be sent to the OFSP in all the official languages and in print-ready digital form, once a year no later than December 31st.29

4 The OFSP shall publish the data.

**Section 4** Labeling30

**Art. 11** Labeling

When it is made available to consumers, every packaging unit of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes must display the following things.31

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30 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 26, 2008, in force since Jan 1, 2009 (RO 2008 6141).
31 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 26, 2008, in force since Jan 1, 2009 (RO 2008 6141).
Foodstuffs and everyday objects

Art. 11a Specific statements for tobacco substitutes

All packaging units of products containing tobacco substitutes that are intended to be smoked must display the following specific statements:

a. In German: “Produkte auf pflanzlicher Basis, ohne Tabak”;

b. In French: “Produits à base de plantes, sans tabac” [Plant-based products, without tobacco];

c. In Italian: “Prodotti a base di erbe, senza tabacco”.

Art. 12 Warnings

1 Each packaging unit of tobacco products intended to be smoked must display a general warning and a supplementary warning.

2 The general warnings are as follows:
   a. “Smoking kills”
   b. “Smoking is seriously harmful to your health and the health of those around you”

3 The supplementary warnings are as follows:
   a. “Smoking shortens your life”
   b. “Smoking blocks your arteries and causes heart attacks and strokes”
   c. “Smoking causes fatal lung cancer”
   d. “Smoking during pregnancy is harmful to the health of your child”

32 New content as per Ch. II 3 of Annex 2 to the Ordinance of Nov. 23, 2005, on foodstuffs and everyday objects, in force since Jan 1, 2006 (RO 2005 5451).

33 RS 817.022.21

34 RS 641.31


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4. The warnings must be used on an alternating basis, so that each one appears regularly on packaging units.

5. The supplementary warnings must be combined with color photographs or other illustrations showing and explaining the health consequences of using tobacco. The Federal Department of the Interior (DFI – Département fédéral de l’intérieur) shall specify in an ordinance the illustrations and their combination with the supplementary warnings. It may decide to require the inclusion of other visual indications (such as logos, phone numbers, websites) relating to the prevention of tobacco use.

6. Every packaging unit of tobacco products not intended to be smoked shall bear the following statement: “This tobacco product can be harmful to your health and cause addiction.”

7. Any packaging unit for products containing tobacco substitutes that are intended to be smoked must display the warnings indicated in sub-paragraphs 2 and 3, except for the one indicated in sub-paragraph 3, letter g): “Smoking is highly addictive.”

Art. 13 Placement, form and language of statements

1. The statements indicated in Art. 11 and 11a are to be printed on packages in a very prominent fashion, in easily legible and indelible characters. For tobacco products other than cigarettes, they can be indicated by using adhesive labels that cannot be removed.

2. The statements indicated in Art. 11, letters a) to d), and 11a are to appear in at least one of the official languages, and the statements indicated in Art. 11, letters e) and f), in all official languages in the following order: German, French and Italian.

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38 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of Nov. 26, 2008, in force since Jan 1, 2009 (RO 2008 6141).
Art. 14  Placement and size of statements on harmful substances

1 The tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide content of cigarettes are to be stated on one of the lateral surfaces of the cigarette pack.

2 These statements are to cover at least 15% of this surface.

Art. 15  Placement and size of warnings

1 The general warning and the warning indicated in Art. 12, sub-paragraph 6, are to appear:

a. On the most visible surface of the packaging unit, and
b. On all external packaging used for the retail sale of the product, except for transparent outer wrappings.

2 The supplementary warning is to appear on the opposite surface.

3 The general warning is to cover at least 35% and the supplementary warning at least 50% of the respective surface of the packaging unit on which they are printed.

4 Warnings must not be concealed or destroyed by the opening of the pack.

5 For packaging units for products other than cigarettes whose most visible surface has an area greater than 75 cm², the area for these warnings shall be at least 26.25 cm² for each surface.

Art. 16  Presentation of statements on harmful substances and warnings

1 The text of statements of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide content and the warnings are to appear as follows:

a. In bold Helvetica characters, black on a white background, in lower case except for the first letter of the statement, or if capitalization is required;
b. Centered on the surface on which the text is to be printed, parallel to the upper edge of the pack;
c. Visibly separated from the other official languages;
d. 39 surrounded by a black frame with a thickness of at least 3 mm and at most 4 mm, not overlapping in any way with the text of the warning or the information provided; no frame may appear on tobacco products pursuant to Art. 12, sub-paragraph 6.

2 For the combination of supplementary warnings and illustrations, the DFI may depart from presentation requirements with regard to print color and text alignment if by doing so it allows for an optimal presentation of text and image.

39 New content as per Ch. I of the Ordinance of March 7, 2008, in force since April 1, 2008 (RO 2008 1187).
Section 5 Protection against trickery, advertising, distribution

Art. 17 Protection against trickery

1 The names, statements and illustrations appearing on packages or used in announcements or advertising for tobacco products must correspond with the facts. They may not mislead the public with respect to the nature, origin, manufacture, composition, production method or effects.

2 Any advertising statement suggesting any beneficial effect of tobacco products on health is prohibited.

3 It is prohibited to use on the packaging of tobacco products texts, names, brands and figurative signs or other things, such as “light,” “ultra-light” or “mild,” allowing people to believe that one particular tobacco product is less harmful than others.

Art. 18 Advertising addressed to young people

Any advertising for tobacco products and products containing tobacco substitutes that are intended to be smoked addressed especially to young people under the age of 18 is prohibited, particularly:

a. in places frequented mainly by young people;
b. in newspapers, magazines or other publications intended mainly for young people;
c. on school materials (school bags, pencil cases, pens, etc.);
d. on advertising items given away free to young people such as T-shirts, caps, pennants, beach balls;
e. on toys;
f. giving away to young people for free tobacco products and products containing tobacco substitutes that are intended to be smoked;
g. at cultural, sporting or other events attended mainly by young people.

Art. 19 Distribution of cigarettes

Cigarettes are to be pre-packaged and distributed to consumers in packages containing at least 20 cigarettes.
Section 6  Final provisions

Art. 20  Rescinding and amendment of the law in force

1 The ordinance of March 1, 1995, on tobacco40 is hereby rescinded.

2 ...

Art. 21  Transitory provisions

1 Cigarettes can be distributed to consumers in accordance with the former provisions until April 30, 2006.

2 Tobacco products other than cigarettes can be distributed to consumers in accordance with the former provisions until April 30, 2007.

3 Supplementary warnings should only be combined with color photographs or other illustrations pursuant to Art. 12, sub-paragraph 5, as of the date specified in the relevant ordinance of the DFI.

4 The lists of substances indicated in Art. 10 must be delivered to the OFSP for the first time between now and September 30, 2005.

5 Permits obtained under the law in force up until now for products intended to be smoked and containing tobacco substitutes must be renewed, with applications to be submitted between now and October 31, 2005. Until a decision is made regarding such applications, products may be distributed to consumers in accordance with the law in force up until now.

Art. 21a  Transitory provision relating to the amendment of Aug. 22, 2012; Cigarettes that are intended for distribution in Switzerland and that are not in compliance with the requirements of Art. 8a may still be imported and manufactured pursuant to the former law up until April 1, 2013. They may be distributed to consumers in accordance with the former law until inventories are used up.

Art. 22  Entry into force

This ordinance shall enter into force on November 1, 2004.

41 This amendment can be consulted in RO 2004 4533.
### Technical standards for measuring tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide content in mainstream cigarette smoke

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO 10315:2000</td>
<td>Cigarettes -- Determination of nicotine in smoke condensates -- Gas-chromatographic method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 10315 Amd 1: 2011</td>
<td>Cigarettes -- Determination of nicotine in smoke condensates -- Gas-chromatographic method – Amendment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 8454 Amd 1</td>
<td>Cigarettes - Determination of carbon monoxide in the vapour phase of cigarette smoke - NDIR method; Amendment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO 8243:2006</td>
<td>Cigarettes – Sampling</td>
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44 The standards indicated can be obtained and consulted through the SNV, Association Suisse de Normalisation, Bürglistrasse 29, 8400 Winterthour, [www.snv.ch](http://www.snv.ch).
Annex 2\textsuperscript{45}
(Art. 9, sub-paragraphs 4 and 5)

Technical standard for determining the flammability of cigarettes\textsuperscript{46}

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>SN IN 16156:2011</td>
<td>Cigarettes – Assessment of the ignition propensity – Safety requirement</td>
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\textsuperscript{46} The standards indicated can be obtained and consulted through the SNV, Association Suisse de Normalisation, Bürglistrasse 29, 8400 Winterthour, www.snv.Ch.