

## Packaging and labeling of tobacco products

Packaging and labeling of tobacco products is regulated by the Article 9 of RA Law "On restrictions of tobacco sale, consumption and use", adopted by the National Assembly of Armenia on December 24, 2004., Government Decision #540-n and Decision #916-N of the RA Minister of Health

### **THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**"On restrictions of tobacco sale, consumption and use"**

*Adopted by the National Assembly of Armenia on December 24, 2004.*

This Law regulates the legal relations, arising in the process of realization, consumption, use and production of tobacco, and it aims at protecting the present and future generations from the harmful effect of tobacco use and tobacco smoke for the human health, as well as social, environmental and other consequences.

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#### **Article 9. Packaging of Tobacco Products**

1. Each package of tobacco product shall include the following information in the state language of the Republic of Armenia:

1) data of tar, nicotine contents, which shall be placed on one of the side panels of the cigarette pack.

2) Warning on the harmful effect of consumption of tobacco for the health. The text of the warning on the harmful effect of tobacco on the health of population shall be approved by an authorized body.

The health warning text shall occupy no less than 30 % of the front and back panels of the consumer packaging (cigarette pack) used in the wholesale and retail trade.

(2) The health warning text shall be:

1) clear and legible;

2) printed in dark ink on a contrasting background;

3) printed in a way that does not allow its removal;

4) placed on the pack in a way preserving it from damage, when opening the pack.

(3) The health warning text shall not:

1) be printed on or attached to the transparent or other outer wrapping, considered as such;

2) be hidden or covered with other printed information or image;

3) be printed on the excise stamps of consumer packaging (cigarette pack).

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#### **Article 13. Transitional Provisions**

Packaging and labeling of tobacco products

1. The requirement, stipulated by para 2 of the first part of Article 9 of this Law for a warning, occupying 30% of the front and back sides of the package, used in the wholesale and retail trade, shall be effective since February 1, 2008,

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Ratified by the President of Armenia  
Robert Kocharyan  
May 18, 2005

**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
RESOLUTION  
#540 - N as of April 28, 2005  
ON APPROVING THE TECHNICAL REGULATION ON TOBACCO**

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16. The texts of warning about the harmful effect of smoking on human health are:

- a) in the form of the main text of warning: 'Smoking is harmful for health',
- b) in the form of additional texts of warning:
  - "Smoking causes lung cancer"
  - "Protect children: don't let them breath tobacco smoke"
  - "Smoking during pregnancy harms your future child"
  - "Smoking causes cardiovascular diseases".

17. The texts of the main warning on harmfulness of smoking should be printed on one of the two sides with maximum large surface of any pack, and the additional health warning text on the other side. The health warning texts should be included in a black color frame and occupy not less than 30 % of each of the two sides with maximum large surface of the consumer packaging (cigarette pack and carton) of tobacco products used in wholesale and retail trade, including frame, and comply with the examples presented in this Technical Regulation (Forms N 1 and 2) and the following requirements:

- (a) the texts of the health warning shall be printed in a way that does not allow its removal and shall be printed:  
clear and legible,  
in dark color ink on a contrasting background,  
in " **Arial Armenian bold**" font, in capital letters for main warning and in lower-case type, except for the first letter for the additional warnings,

## Packaging and labeling of tobacco products

- (b) the frame surrounding main and additional health warnings shall be from 3 mm to 4 mm in width,
- (c) health warning font size should be such as to occupy the greatest possible proportion of the area set aside for it.
- (d) health warning texts should be centered in the area in which the text is required to be printed, parallel to the top edge of the pack and be placed in a way that it is preserved from damage when opening the pack.
- (e) the health warnings shall not:
  - be printed on or attached to the transparent or other outer wrapping, considered as such,
  - be hidden or covered with other printed information or image,
  - be printed on the excise stamps of consumer packaging (cigarette pack and carton).

In case of transparent packaging of tobacco for pipe and for smoking the texts on the harmfulness of smoking foreseen by the Point 16 of this Technical Resolution should be placed on the insert paper and occupy not less than 30 percent of its surface.

Each of the additional texts of warning in 4 versions as foreseen in sub-point b) of Point 16 of this Technical Regulation should be printed approximately on equal quantity of consumer packages (cigarette pack and carton) of tobacco products as to guarantee the regular appearance of all additional health warnings.

18. It is permitted to print the information on the organization accepting consumers' complaints in the Republic of Armenia inside the pack, on a space suitable for reading.

19. The text on the content of nicotine and tar should be included in a black color frame and occupy not less than 10 percent of the side panel of the consumer packaging (cigarette pack and carton) used in wholesale and retail trade, including frame, and comply with the examples presented in this Technical Regulation (Forms N 1 and 2) and the following requirements:

- (a) the text on the content of nicotine and tar shall be printed in a way that does not allow its removal and be printed:
  - clear and legible,
  - in dark color ink on a contrasting background,
  - in Arial Armenian bold font, for "Nicotine:" and "Tar:" - in capital letters, for nicotine and tar measure unit - in lower-case type,
- (b) the frame surrounding the text on the content of nicotine and tar shall be from 3 mm to 4 mm in width,
- (c) the font size of the text on the content of nicotine and tar should be such as to occupy the greatest possible proportion of the area set aside for it.
- (d) the text on the content of nicotine and tar should be centered in the area in which the text is required to be printed, parallel to the side edge of the pack and be placed in a way that it is preserved from damage when opening the pack.
- (e) the text on the content of nicotine and tar shall not:
  - be printed on or attached to the transparent or other outer wrapping, considered as such,
  - be hidden or covered with other printed information or image,
  - be printed on the excise stamps of consumer packaging (cigarette pack)."

## Packaging and labeling of tobacco products

20. Other information characterizing the product is permitted to be additionally printed on the raw tobacco transportation package as well as on the packs, cartons of tobacco products, insert papers of tobacco for pipe and for smoking which is not inconsistent with the data defined in Points 14 and 15 of this Technical Regulation, but it is prohibited the usage of descriptors such as **“low content of nicotine (tar)”**, **“lights”**, **“super lights” (“ultra lights”)**, **“mild”**, **“special filter”** or **other misleading phrases**, which directly or indirectly stipulate the formation of opinion of less harmfulness of the given tobacco product.

The information of advertisement nature should be printed only in the event of availability of the documents certifying its authenticity.

*On the basis of the mentioned article of the Law the text of the warnings on the negative impact of the tobacco on the human health was approved on the 5<sup>th</sup>*

*of October, 2005, by Decision #916-N of the RA Minister of Health.*

The approved warnings are the following:

- a) Smoking causes lung cancer;
- b) Save the children: don't let them breathe the tobacco smoke
- c) Smoking during pregnancy damages your future child
- d) Smoking causes cardio-vascular diseases.

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