

REGULATIONS OF THE PLYMOUTH BOARD OF HEALTH FOR TOBACCO  
SALES IN CERTAIN PLACES & SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO MINORS

A. Statement of Purpose:

Whereas there exists conclusive evidence that tobacco smoke causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac diseases, negative birth outcomes, irritations to the eyes, nose and throat; and whereas more than eighty percent of all smokers begin smoking before the age of eighteen years (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Youth Surveillance - United States 2000," 50 MMWR 1 (Nov. 2000); and whereas nationally in 2000, sixty nine percent of middle school age children who smoke at least once a month were not asked to show proof of age when purchasing cigarettes (Id.); and whereas the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin; and whereas despite state laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors, access by minors to tobacco products is a major problem; now, therefore it is the intention of the Plymouth Board of Health to curtail the access of tobacco products by minors.

B. Authority:

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Plymouth Board of Health by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31 that "Boards of Health may make reasonable health regulations"

C. Definitions:

For the purpose of this regulation, the following words shall have the following meanings:

**Business Agent:** An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.

**Employee:** Any individual who performs services for an employer.

**Employer:** Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, trust or other organized group of individuals, including Plymouth or any agency thereof, which uses the services of one (1) or more employees.

**Minor:** Any individual who is under the age of eighteen (18).

**Permit Holder:** Any person engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to consumers who applies for and receives a tobacco sales permit or any person who is required to apply for a tobacco sales permit pursuant to these regulations, or his or her business agent.

**Person:** An individual, employer, employee, retail store manager or owner, or the owner or operator of any establishment engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to consumers.

**Self Service Display:** Any display from which customers may select a tobacco product without assistance from an employee or store personnel, excluding vending machines.

**Tobacco Product:** Cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, bidis, snuff or tobacco in any of its forms.

**Vending Machine:** Any automated or mechanical self service device, which upon insertion of money, tokens or any other form of payment, dispenses cigarettes or any other tobacco product.

D. Tobacco Sales to Minors Prohibited:

1. No person shall sell tobacco products or permit tobacco products to be sold to a minor; or not being the minor's parent or legal guardian, give tobacco products to a minor.
2. In conformance with and in addition to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 270, Section 7, a copy of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 6, shall be posted conspicuously by the owner or other person in charge thereof in the shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail. The notice shall be provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and made available from the Plymouth Board of Health. The notice shall be at least 48 square inches and shall be posted conspicuously by the permit holder in the retail establishment or other place in such a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing at or approaching the cash register. The notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of less than four (4) feet or greater than nine (9) feet from the floor.
3. Identification: Each person selling or distributing tobacco products shall verify the age of the purchaser by means of government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that the purchaser is 18 years old or older. Verification is required for any person under the age of 27.
4. All retail sales of tobacco must be face-to-face between the seller and the buyer except as permitted in section (I) of this regulation.

E. Tobacco Sales Permit:

1. No person shall sell or otherwise distribute tobacco at retail within Plymouth without first obtaining a tobacco sales permit issued annually by the Plymouth Board of Health.
2. As part of the tobacco sales permit application process, the applicant will be provided with the Plymouth Board of Health regulation. Each applicant is required to sign a statement declaring that the applicant has read said regulation and that the applicant is responsible for instructing any and all employees who will be responsible for tobacco sales regarding both state laws regarding the sale of tobacco and this regulation.
3. Each applicant is required to provide proof of a current tobacco sales license issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue before a tobacco sales permit can be issued.
4. The fee for a tobacco sales permit shall be determined by the Plymouth Board of Health annually. All such permits shall be renewed annually by December 31st.
5. A separate permit is required for each retail establishment selling tobacco.
6. Each tobacco sales permit shall be displayed at the retail establishment in a conspicuous place.
7. No tobacco sales permit holder shall allow any employee to sell cigarettes or other tobacco products until such employee reads this regulation and state laws regarding the sale of tobacco and signs a statement, a copy of which will be placed on file in the office

of the employer, that he/she has read the regulation and applicable state laws.

8. A tobacco sales permit is non-transferable, except a new permit will be issued to a retailer who changes location.

9. Issuance of a tobacco sales permit shall be conditioned on an applicant's consent to unannounced, periodic inspections of his/her retail establishment to ensure compliance with this regulation.

F. Free Distribution:

No person shall distribute, or cause to be distributed, any free samples of tobacco products.

G. Out-of-Package Sales:

No person may sell or cause to be sold or distribute or cause to be distributed, any cigarette package that contains fewer than twenty (20) cigarettes, including single cigarettes.

H. Self Service Displays:

All self service displays of tobacco products are prohibited. All humidors including, but not limited to, walk-in humidors must be locked. The only exception is self service displays that are located in facilities where the retailer ensures that no person younger than eighteen (18) years of age is present, or permitted to enter, at any time.

I. Tobacco Vending Machines:

All tobacco vending machines are prohibited. The only exception is tobacco vending machines that are equipped with a lock out device and that are located in facilities where the retailer ensures that no person younger than eighteen (18) years of age is present, or permitted to enter, at any time. A lock-out device locks out sales from the vending machine unless a release mechanism is triggered by an employee. The release mechanism must not allow continuous operation of the vending machine and must be out of the reach of all consumers and in a location accessible only to employees.

J. Violations:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder and/or his or her business agent to ensure compliance with all sections of this regulation pertaining to his or her distribution of tobacco. The violator shall receive:
  - a. In the case of a first violation, a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for three (3) consecutive days.
  - b. In the case of a second violation within (36) months of the date of the current violation, a fine of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for seven (7) consecutive business days.
  - c. In the case of three violations within a (36) month period, a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for thirty (30) consecutive business days.
  - d. Any sale thereafter will be two thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) when the license is held in the same ownership. Any and all changes of ownership must be brought to the Health

Departments attention. Proof of ownership change will be necessary if any violations were to occur.

2. Refusal to cooperate with inspections pursuant to this regulation shall result in the suspension of the tobacco sales permit for thirty (30) consecutive business days.
3. In addition to the monetary fines set above, any permit holder who engages in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to a consumer while his or her permit is suspended shall be subject to the suspension of all board of health issued permits for thirty (30) consecutive business days.
4. The Plymouth Board of Health shall provide notice of the intent to suspend a tobacco sales permit, which notice shall contain the reasons therefore and establish a time and date for the tobacco sales suspension and a date for the commencement of sales. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Plymouth Health Department may seek relief there from the Plymouth Board of Health within ten days of tobacco sales permit suspension. The permit holder or its business agent shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board of Health's decision, and the reasons therefore in writing.

The Plymouth Board of Health after a hearing, may suspend the tobacco sales permit and impose a fine. All tobacco products shall be removed from the retail establishment upon suspension of the tobacco sales permit. Failure to remove all tobacco products shall constitute a separate violation of this regulation.

5. Any permit holder who does not pay the assessed fine within twenty-one days from fine issuance may be subject to criminal proceedings.

K. Non-Criminal Disposition:

Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21 D or by filing a criminal complaint at the appropriate venue.

Each day any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

L. Enforcement:

Enforcement of this regulation shall be by the Board of Health of Plymouth or its designated agent(s).

Any citizen who desires to register a complaint pursuant to the regulation may do so by contacting the Board of Health of Plymouth or its designated agent(s) and the Board shall investigate.

M: Severability:

If any provision of these regulations is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

N. Effective Date:

This regulation shall take effect on April 1, 2004..

O. Smoking on Town Property/Public Buildings:

There will be no smoking within 25' (twenty-five) of any Town owned building or any public building .

P. No Smoking In Town Owned Vehicles:

There will be no smoking allowed in any Town owned vehicles. There are no exceptions to these rules and regulations.

Q. Effective date:

The above additional two regulations shall take effect on November 8, 2006 – unanimously approved.