

Bangladesh

Tobacco Policy Status

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS: Smoking is completely banned in health-care facilities and educational facilities. Smoking is also banned in other workplaces and public places, however the law allows for designated smoking areas.

BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP: Despite statements in the national law that “tobacco advertisement is prohibited in any form,” the current law does not prohibit advertising at point of sale and promotional activities such as “corporate social responsibility” advertising, brand-stretching, and promotional discounts.

HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES: Health warnings do not effectively warn smokers about smoking and are not applied to smokeless tobacco. The law mandates written warnings that cover 30% of the front and back of the package; six rotating warnings are used in 6-month rotations. Given the high adult illiteracy rate (49%) and high rate of persons who consume smokeless tobacco (36% male, 56% female), pictorial warnings and comprehensive coverage of all tobacco brands is necessary.

TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICES: Tobacco taxes have gradually increased over the last two years. The most popular brand of cigarettes is currently taxed at 68%.

Tobacco Control Policies

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS – COMPLETE SMOKING BANS				
Health-care facilities	Yes	Indoor offices	No	
Educational facilities, except universities	Yes	Public transport	No	
Universities	Yes ¹	Restaurants	No	
Governmental facilities	No	Pubs and bars	No	
Do sub-national jurisdictions have the authority to adopt laws that completely ban tobacco smoking?			No	
BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP*				
National TV and radio	Yes	Free distribution	Yes	
International TV and radio	No	Promotional discounts	No	
Local magazines/newspapers	Yes	Non-tobacco products with tobacco names	No	
International magazines/newspapers	No	Non-tobacco brand used for tobacco product	No	
Billboards and outdoor advertising	Yes	Appearance of tobacco products in TV and/or films	No	
Point-of-sale	No	Sponsored events	Yes	
Internet	Yes			
HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES†				
Law mandates specific warnings	Yes	Number of approved warnings	6	
Warnings describe harmful effects of tobacco use	Yes	Warnings required to rotate	Yes	
Warnings include a picture or graphic	No	Warnings are written in the principal language(s)	Yes	
% of principal display areas covered (front and back)	30%	Warnings have mandated font style, font size and color	Yes	
Front	30%	Ban on misleading descriptors	No	
Back	30%			
TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICE				
PRICE OF MOST SOLD BRAND, PACK OF 20 CIGARETTES			TAXES ON MOST SOLD BRAND (% OF RETAIL PRICE)§	
In currency reported by country	BDT	33.00	Total taxes	68%
In US\$ at official exchange rate	USD	0.48	Total excise (specific and ad valorem)	53%
			Value added tax (VAT)	15%

*Because the definition of “tobacco products” in the law only covers products which can be inhaled through smoking and not does include products used by sucking, chewing, or snuffing, the advertising ban is not applied to smokeless tobacco products. Source: Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005, Art. 2(c)

†Because the definition of “tobacco products” in the law only covers products which can be inhaled through smoking and not does include products used by sucking, chewing, or snuffing, smokeless tobacco products are not required to carry health warnings. Source: Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005, Art. 2(c)

§Individual categories of tax may not add to total due to rounding

Sources:

WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2011 available from: <http://who.int/tobacco>

¹ Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005; Art. 2(e), (f), 4, 7. Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Rules, 2006; Art 4, 5.