

Philippines

Tobacco Policy Status

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS: Smoking is completely banned in health-care, educational, and indoor government facilities and on public land transportation. Smoking is also banned in other indoor workplaces and public places, however the law allows for these areas to have designated smoking areas.

BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP: Tobacco advertising is banned on national and international TV, radio, and print media. However, tobacco advertising is still allowed at point of sale in the form of posters and leaflets. Tobacco companies heavily advertise at point of sale and through indirect methods such as free distribution and promotional discounts.

HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES: Current health warnings do not meet minimum FCTC requirements. The health warnings are text only and cover 30% of the front of the pack.

TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICES: The Philippines has a non-indexed four-tier tobacco tax system that differentiates between low-, medium-priced, high-priced and premium brands. The Department of Finance is contemplating amending the current tax structure to a single unitary rate. Tobacco taxes in the Philippines fall below the World Bank's recommendation that tobacco taxes make up two-thirds to four-fifths of retail price.

Tobacco Control Policies

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS – COMPLETE SMOKING BANS				
Health-care facilities	Yes	Indoor offices	No	
Educational facilities, except universities	Yes	Public transport	Yes	
Universities	Yes	Restaurants	No	
Governmental facilities	Yes	Pubs and bars	No	
Do sub-national jurisdictions have the authority to adopt laws that completely ban tobacco smoking?			Yes	
BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP				
National TV and radio	Yes	Free distribution	No	
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	No [‡]			
HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES				
Law mandates specific warnings	Yes	Number of approved warnings	4	
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)	45%	Warnings have mandated font style, font size and color	Yes	
Front	30%	Ban on misleading descriptors	No [†]	
Back	60%			
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	PHP	22.00	Total taxes	63%
In US\$ at official exchange rate	USD	0.48	Total excise (specific and ad valorem)	52%
			Value added tax (VAT)	11%

[‡] Some Restrictions b/c the law allows for internet sites limited to 18yrs+ old. Source: Republic Act No. 9211, Section 22

[†] The law is currently not in force

* 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>