

# Changes to specialist tobacconist certification

Information about changes commencing 1 April 2014

## What are the changes to the law about specialist tobacconist certification?

From 1 April 2014, a person will not be able to apply to have a premises certified as a specialist tobacconist under the *Tobacco Act 1987* and therefore will not be exempt from the tobacco product display ban.

## What does this change mean for existing certified specialist tobacconists?

Existing certified specialist tobacconists will continue to be certified, and as such will continue to be exempt from the tobacco product display ban. However, if a business transfers ownership, ceases, moves location, or has certification cancelled, the certification will cease to be in force and a person will not be able to apply to have a premises certified as a specialist tobacconist.

## Why are these changes occurring?

Reducing the visibility of tobacco products at a retail outlet will reduce the visual cues that prompt people to smoke, assist those wanting to quit smoking and help those who have quit smoking to stay quit. The change will limit the number of businesses that can display tobacco products and reduce the differences in tobacco display laws affecting specialist tobacconists in other states and territories.

## What will happen if my business can't be certified?

A premises that is not certified as a specialist tobacconist is not restricted from calling itself a specialist tobacconist, and its ability to sell tobacco is not affected. However, retailers that are not certified must not display tobacco products, in line with the majority of other tobacco retailing businesses in Victoria. If a business uses a price board to inform customers of tobacco product availability and price, a graphic health warning sign must be displayed on or next to the price board.

The *Tobacco Retailer Guide* is a useful resource for general tobacco retailing businesses and is available for download at the website listed below. You may also wish to contact the Tobacco Information Line on 1300 136 775 to obtain a graphic health warning sign or a copy of the *Tobacco Retailer Guide*.

## How can I find out more?

For more information:

- visit [www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoreforms)
- call the Tobacco Information Line on 1300 136 775

To view the legislation visit <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/> and search *Tobacco Act 1987*.

**DISCLAIMER:** Please note that any advice contained in this factsheet is for general guidance only. The Department of Health does not accept any liability for any loss or damage suffered as a result of reliance upon the advice contained in this factsheet. Nothing in this factsheet should replace seeking appropriate legal advice.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne. To receive this publication in an accessible format phone the Tobacco Information Line on 1300 136 775 or email [tobacco.policy@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:tobacco.policy@health.vic.gov.au).