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No. S 70

TOBACCO (CONTROL OF ADVERTISEMENTS AND SALE) ACT (CHAPTER 309)

TOBACCO AND VAPORISERS CONTROL (PROHIBITED TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND IMITATION TOBACCO PRODUCTS) (EXEMPTION) ORDER 2018

ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph

1. Citation and commencement
 2. Definitions
 3. Exemption from prohibition against importing tobacco product
 4. Exemption from prohibition against possession of tobacco product
 5. Exemption in relation to vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product
 6. Conditions of exemptions
 7. Revocation
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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 22 of the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the Minister for Health makes the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1. This Order is the Tobacco and Vaporisers Control (Prohibited Tobacco Products and Imitation Tobacco Products) (Exemption) Order 2018 and comes into operation on 1 February 2018.

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

Definitions

2. In this Order —

“exempt imitation tobacco product” means a heating device intended to be used with a heated tobacco product (also known as a heat-not-burn tobacco product);

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

“exempted purpose” means —

- (a) non-clinical research;
- (b) product development; or
- (c) a supply-chain related activity;

“non-clinical research”, in relation to a smokeless tobacco product, vaporiser, vaporiser solution or exempt imitation tobacco product, means any research conducted in a laboratory or other research facility that does not involve the testing or application of the smokeless tobacco product, vaporiser, vaporiser solution or exempt imitation tobacco product on a human being;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

“product development” means an activity involving research and development, design, enhancement, bringing a product to commercialisation, prototyping, performance testing, quality assurance, tooling, moulding, automation and market certification of products and processes, failure analysis, or an activity that supports any of these activities;

“Prohibited Tobacco Products Regulations” means the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) (Prohibited Tobacco Products) Regulations 2014 (G.N. No. S 769/2014) as in force immediately before 1 May 2026;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

[Deleted by S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

“Section 15 Tobacco Products Regulations” means the Tobacco and Vaporisers Control (Section 15 Tobacco Products) Regulations 2026 (G.N. No. S 240/2026);

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

“smokeless tobacco product” means —

- (a) any tobacco product specified in item 2 of the Schedule to the Prohibited Tobacco Products Regulations; or
- (b) any tobacco product specified in item 2 of Part 2 of the Schedule to the Section 15 Tobacco Products Regulations;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

“supply-chain related activity” means an activity involving the movement and storage of products and components, including component sourcing, supplier management, production scheduling and planning, inventory and warehouse management, import and export trade compliance and distribution, or an activity that supports any of these activities;

[Deleted by S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

“vaporiser” includes an electronic nicotine delivery system;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

“vaporiser solution” means —

- (a) any tobacco product specified in item 5 of the Schedule to the Prohibited Tobacco Product Regulations; or
- (b) any tobacco product specified in item 3 of Part 2 of the Schedule to the Section 15 Tobacco Products Regulations.

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

Exemption from prohibition against importing tobacco product

3. Subject to paragraph 6, a person who —

- (a) has not been convicted of any offence under the Act or any subsidiary legislation under the Act committed on or after 2 August 2016;

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- (b) on or after 1 February 2018, gives prior notice to the Authority of the person's intention to import any smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution for an exempted purpose before the person first imports that smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution;
- (c) imports any smokeless tobacco product —
- (i) between 2 August 2016 and 31 December 2026 (both dates inclusive) only for non-clinical research conducted by the person; or
 - (ii) between 1 February 2018 and 31 December 2026 (both dates inclusive) only for an exempted purpose carried out by the person;
- (d) imports any vaporiser solution between 1 February 2018 and 31 December 2026 (both dates inclusive) only for an exempted purpose carried out by the person; and
- (e) where the non-clinical research involves any application or testing of the smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution on an animal, is the holder of a licence issued under the Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules (R 10),

[S 254/2026 wef 31/12/2021]

is exempt from the following in respect of the smokeless tobacco products or vaporiser solutions so imported by that person:

- (f) except where sub-paragraph (g) applies, section 15(1) of the Act read with regulation 2 of the Section 15 Tobacco Products Regulations;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

- (g) in relation to the import, before 1 May 2026, of —
- (i) any smokeless tobacco product in accordance with sub-paragraph (c); or
 - (ii) any vaporiser solution in accordance with sub-paragraph (d),

section 15(1) of the Act (as it relates to the import of a tobacco product) as in force immediately before 1 May

2026 read with regulation 2 of the Prohibited Tobacco Products Regulations;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

(h) section 18(1) of the Act.

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

Exemption from prohibition against possession of tobacco product

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph 6, a person who —

- (a) has not been convicted of any offence under the Act or any subsidiary legislation under the Act committed on or after 1 February 2018;
- (b) on or after 1 February 2018, gives prior notice to the Authority of the person's intention to possess any smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution for an exempted purpose before the person first takes possession of that smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution;
- (c) is in possession of any smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution between 1 February 2018 and 30 April 2026 (both dates inclusive) only for an exempted purpose carried out by the person; and
- (d) where the non-clinical research involves any application or testing of the smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution on an animal, is the holder of a licence issued under the Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules,

[S 254/2026 wef 31/12/2021]

is exempt from section 15(3)(a) of the Act as in force immediately before 1 May 2026 read with regulation 2 of the Prohibited Tobacco Products Regulations in respect of the smokeless tobacco products or vaporiser solutions in the possession of that person between 1 February 2018 and 30 April 2026 (both dates inclusive).

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

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- (2) Subject to paragraph 6, a person who —
- (a) has not been convicted of any offence under the Act or any subsidiary legislation under the Act committed on or after 1 February 2018;
 - (b) on or after 1 February 2018, gives prior notice to the Authority of the person's intention to possess any smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution for an exempted purpose before the person first takes possession of that smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution;
 - (c) is in possession of any smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution between 1 May 2026 and 31 December 2026 (both dates inclusive) only for an exempted purpose carried out by the person; and
 - (d) where the non-clinical research involves any application or testing of the smokeless tobacco product or vaporiser solution on an animal, is the holder of a licence issued under the Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules,

is exempt from section 15(3)(a) of the Act read with regulation 2 of the Section 15 Tobacco Products Regulations in respect of the smokeless tobacco products or vaporiser solutions in the possession of that person between 1 May 2026 and 31 December 2026 (both dates inclusive).

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

Exemption in relation to vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product

- 5.—(1) Subject to paragraph 6, a person who —
- (a) has not been convicted of any offence under the Act or any subsidiary legislation under the Act committed on or after 1 February 2018;
 - (b) on or after 1 February 2018, gives prior notice to the Authority of the person's intention to —
 - (i) import, distribute or possess any vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product, as the case may be, for an

exempted purpose before the person first imports, distributes or takes possession of that vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product; or

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

- (ii) import, distribute, sell or offer for sale, possess or purchase any component of a vaporiser or an exempt imitation tobacco product, as the case may be, for an exempted purpose before the person first imports, distributes, sells or offers for sale, takes possession of or purchases that component;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

- (c) between 1 February 2018 and 30 April 2026 (both dates inclusive) —

- (i) imports, distributes or is in possession of any vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product, as the case may be, only for an exempted purpose carried out by the person; or

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

- (ii) imports, distributes, sells or offers for sale, is in possession of or purchases any component of a vaporiser or an exempt imitation tobacco product, as the case may be, for an exempted purpose carried out by the person; and

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

- (d) where the non-clinical research involves any testing of the vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product on an animal, is the holder of a licence issued under the Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules,

[S 254/2026 wef 31/12/2021]

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

is exempt from section 16(1), (2) and (3) of the Act as in force immediately before 1 May 2026 in respect of the vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product and its components so imported,

distributed, sold or offered for sale, possessed or purchased, as the case may be.

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

- (2) Subject to paragraph 6, a person who —
- (a) has not been convicted of any offence under the Act or any subsidiary legislation under the Act committed on or after 1 February 2018;
 - (b) on or after 1 February 2018, gives prior notice to the Authority of the person's intention to —
 - (i) import, distribute or possess any vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product (as the case may be) for an exempted purpose before the person first imports, distributes or takes possession of that product; or
 - (ii) import, distribute, sell or offer for sale, possess or purchase any component of a vaporiser or an exempt imitation tobacco product (as the case may be) for an exempted purpose before the person first imports, distributes, sells or offers for sale, takes possession of or purchases that component;
 - (c) between 1 May 2026 and 31 December 2026 (both dates inclusive) —
 - (i) imports, distributes or is in possession of any vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product (as the case may be) only for an exempted purpose carried out by the person; or
 - (ii) imports, distributes, sells or offers for sale, is in possession of or purchases any component of a vaporiser or an exempt imitation tobacco product (as the case may be) for an exempted purpose carried out by the person; and
 - (d) where the non-clinical research involves any testing of the vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product on an animal, is the holder of a licence issued under the Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules,

is exempt from sections 15(1), (2) and (3) and 16(1), (2) and (3) of the Act in respect of the vaporiser or exempt imitation tobacco product and its components so imported, distributed, sold or offered for sale, possessed or purchased, as the case may be.

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

Conditions of exemptions

6. The exemptions in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 are subject to the person in paragraph 3, 4 or 5, as the case may be, (called in this paragraph the exempt person) complying with the following conditions:

(a) the exempt person must take all reasonable steps to prevent the use, distribution, import, sale, supply, purchase or possession of the smokeless tobacco product, vaporiser, vaporiser solution or exempt imitation tobacco product, or its components, (called in this paragraph an exempt product) for a purpose other than an exempted purpose;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

(b) the exempt person must, within 3 days after becoming aware of any use, distribution, import, sale, supply, purchase or possession of an exempt product for a purpose that is not an exempted purpose for which the exempt product is imported, distributed, sold or offered for sale, possessed or purchased, as the case may be, inform the Authority of such use, distribution, import, sale, supply, purchase or possession;

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

(c) the exempt person must keep and maintain proper records of an inventory of all the exempt products, and in addition cause to be recorded in respect of each exempt product such particulars as may be specified by the Authority from time to time;

(d) the exempt person must, upon request by the Authority, furnish to the Authority or an authorised officer the records mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) within such period as may be specified by the Authority;

- (e) the exempt person must preserve the records mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) for a period of 2 years after the last import, distribution, sale or offer for sale, instance of possession or purchase, as the case may be, of an exempt product by that person.

[S 254/2026 wef 01/05/2026]

Revocation

7. The Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) (Prohibited Tobacco Products) (Exemption) Order 2016 (G.N. No. S 582/2016) is revoked.

Made on 30 January 2018.

CHAN HENG KEE
*Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Singapore.*

[MH 78:29/2 Vol. 11; AG/LEGIS/SL/309/2015/5 Vol. 1]