

Russian Federation

Tobacco Policy Status

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS: The current national law on smoke-free places is weak. The national law allows for designated smoking areas in workplaces, public transport, government buildings, and sports, health and cultural facilities.

BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP: Advertising outdoors and in public transport is banned. However, advertising is still allowed in indoor areas, including in transport facilities such as metro and train stations, and airports. There is no ban on tobacco industry promotion, sponsorship, or indirect advertising.

HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES: In June 2010, Russia implemented the new regulations requiring health warnings on 30% of the front and 50% of the back of pack. These regulations do not ban misleading descriptors such as "light" and "low-tar".

TOBACCO TAXATION AND PRICE: Cigarettes in Russia are cheap and becoming more affordable over time. On average, the total tax (including VAT) represents about 33% of the retail price for cigarettes. Despite signs that the government may be considering tobacco tax increases, there is no evidence that excises will increase significantly.

Tobacco Control Policies

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS – COMPLETE SMOKING BANS			
Health-care facilities	No	Indoor offices	No
Educational facilities, except universities	No	Public transport	No
Universities	No	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	No
International TV and radio	No	Promotional discounts	No
Local magazines/newspapers	No	Non-tobacco products with tobacco names	No
International magazines/newspapers	No	Non-tobacco brand used for tobacco product	No
Billboards and outdoor advertising	No	Appearance of tobacco products in TV and/or films	Yes
Point-of-sale	No	Sponsored events	No
Internet	No		

HEALTH WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PACKAGES			
Law mandates specific warnings	Yes ¹	Number of approved warnings	12 ¹
Warnings describe harmful effects of tobacco use	Yes ¹	Warnings required to rotate	No ¹
Warnings include a picture or graphic	No ¹	Warnings are written in the principal language(s)	Yes ¹
% of principal display areas covered (front and back)	40% ¹	Warnings have mandated font style, font size and color	Yes ¹
Front	30% ¹	Ban on misleading descriptors	No ¹
Back	50% ¹		

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	RUB	15.00	Total taxes	37%
In US\$ at official exchange rate	USD	0.51	Total excise (specific and ad valorem)	22%
			Value added tax (VAT)	15%

... Data not reported/not available

— Data not required/not applicable

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

Source: WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2009 available from: <http://who.int/tobacco>

August 2010

¹ Russian Federation, State Duma. Technical Regulations for Tobacco Products No 268-FZ, Dec 3, 2008