



Important News

14th May 2007

**To: All BFFF Members
All BFFF Members' Health & Safety Contacts**

SMOKE FREE COUNTDOWN

From 1st July 2007, England will join Wales and Scotland to be 'smoke free' when it will be against the law to smoke in virtually all enclosed public places, workplaces and public and work vehicles. As many of you will be aware, new legislation relating to smoking was introduced in Scotland on the 26th March 2006 and more recently, Wales on 2nd April 2007.

There will be very few exceptions from the law, and as such the new legislation will affect the majority of our members. Consequently, we felt it would be useful to provide our members with suggestions on how to prepare for the new legislation and sources of further guidance.

Getting ready to go smoke free

All people who manage or are in charge of any premises or vehicles that the new law applies to, will have a legal responsibility to ensure they become and remain smoke free. To be ready for the new law when it comes into effect on Sunday, 1st July, companies will need to make sure that:

- you have all the required no-smoking signs in place
- your staff, customers, members or visitors are aware that your premises and work vehicles are legally required to be smoke free
- you have removed any existing indoor smoking rooms

Keeping your premises and vehicles smoke free

Once the law comes into effect, it will be the legal responsibility of anyone who controls or manages smoke free premises and vehicles to prevent people from smoking in them. You will also have to demonstrate that you have taken reasonable steps to meet the requirements of the new law. The Department of Health suggests that these steps might include:

- removing ashtrays
- introducing a smoke free policy
- training staff to understand the new law and what their responsibilities are.

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Enforcement

Local councils will be responsible for enforcing the new law in England and the Department of Health reports that local councils will offer support to help businesses meet their legal obligations under the new law. The local council will also have the power to enter premises or board vehicles to determine if the new law is being upheld and we have had reports from our members that this is already taking place in Scotland.

Further information on the new legislation is available from the following website: <http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk>. This website also contains a useful guide for businesses on smoke free compliance, which includes a suggested smoke free policy and downloadable no-smoking signs. The Department of Health also suggests that businesses needing advice on specific circumstances should contact their local council.

Further information on the legislation in Scotland is available from the website: <http://www.clearingtheairscotland.com>.

Further information on the legislation in Wales is available from the website: <http://www.smokingbanwales.com>.

If you would like to discuss any of the above further, please do not hesitate to contact Joanna Hancock on joannahancock@bfff.co.uk or 01476 515300.

BFFF

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