



無煙遊戲機中心 簡易實施指引



衛生署控煙辦公室
Tobacco Control Office
Department of Health



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1. 簡介



為保障遊戲機中心的員工及顧客免除因吸入二手煙而損害健康，政府在九十年代中已把遊戲機中心的室內及室外範圍列作法定禁止吸煙區。在二零零七年，禁煙範圍更擴展至所有室內公眾地方及部分室外範圍，而有關遊戲機中心的禁煙規定則維持不變。

衛生署控煙辦公室希望藉著此簡易無煙實施指引，協助遊戲機中心管理人及員工深入了解和更有效地落實全面禁煙措施。

1.1 遊戲機中心定義及禁煙規定

根據《吸煙(公眾衛生)條例》(第371章)，遊戲機中心的定義是根據《遊戲機中心條例》(第435章)，即指“任何裝有或放有某種機器或裝置的地方，而這種機器或裝置是有供人娛樂、康樂或消遣的目的，在直接或間接繳付金錢或具金錢價值的任何代價後，才可以使用或操作”。

任何人不得在遊戲機中心範圍內吸煙或攜帶燃着的煙草產品，否則可被罰款。



1.2 二手煙的危害

二手煙 = 一級致癌物質

二手煙是由煙草產品燃燒時飄散出來及吸煙者抽煙時呼出的混合煙霧，含超過4,000種有害化學物質及超過50種致癌物質¹。

二手煙已被列為「一級致癌物質」²，員工長期工作於瀰漫二手煙的環境，會大幅增加患上肺癌及心臟病的機會。



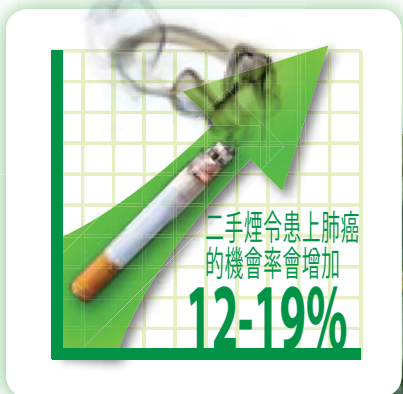
- 1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General – Executive Summary. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.
- 2 Office of Health and Environmental Assessment. Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders. Washington D.C.: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1992.



員工因吸入二手煙而面對的心臟病及癌病風險

世界衛生組織曾指出非吸煙者如果長期在一個充滿二手煙的環境下工作，其患上肺癌的機會率會增加12-19%³。另外，亦有研究指出，如果員工曾接觸顧客吸煙時所釋放出來的二手煙，尿液中「可的寧」(Cotinine)含量⁴比沒有接觸二手煙的員工高出兩倍多。

除了肺癌之外，二手煙亦會引致心臟病、中風等致命疾病，更會導致兒童患上中耳炎和呼吸道感染如肺炎及支氣管炎等。因此，二手煙不但影響僱員及顧客的健康，更會危害他們的性命。



3 Tobacco smoke and involuntary smoking: summary of data reported and evaluation. Lyon, International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2004 (IARC Monographs, Vol. 83).

4 「可的寧」是當煙草煙霧中的尼古丁進入血液中，經新陳代謝過程分解的其中一種物質，其含量可於唾液、尿液及血液中量度到。另外，「可的寧」反映體內可導致心臟病、癌病、及呼吸系統疾病的毒素含量，而此等含量亦可作為非吸煙者吸入二手煙內有毒物質的指標。

2. 實行禁煙措施的好處

2.1 保障員工健康

員工是公司的重要資產，禁煙措施確保員工免受二手煙影響，能夠在一個清新健康的環境下工作。員工健康得到保障，減少缺席率，工作效率及士氣自然得到提升。



2.2 節省經營成本

遊戲機中心內的空調及通風系統再沒有被煙燻的問題，而場內的遊戲機亦不會被燃點著的煙頭損毀，令場所內的整體設施保持得更持久，減少在維修和保養方面的開支。



2.3 擴大客源

香港非吸煙人口佔總人口約八成八⁵，而市民亦普遍知道二手煙損害健康。因此，大部分人會避免光顧煙霧瀰漫的遊戲機中心。同時，空氣清新的遊戲機中心令顧客會更樂意在內逗留。

2.4 減低火警發生機會

據資料顯示⁶，2008年共有2,300多宗火警是由於不小心處理或棄置煙頭、火柴和蠟燭等引起。實行禁煙措施，可減低由棄置煙頭而引起火警的機會。



5 香港政府統計處2008年主題性住戶統計調查第三十六號報告書顯示，當時有吸煙的人士共676,900人，佔全香港十五歲以上人士的11.8%。

6. 香港消防處。URL: <http://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/home/chi/statistic.html> (於2010年4月21日瀏覽)

3. 落實禁煙措施-給管理人的建議

3.1 熟悉法例 了解職權

遊戲機中心管理人及員工的職權

為落實執行控煙措施，確保無煙環境，條例賦予遊戲機中心管理人相當的權力及責任。當發現有人在遊戲機中心內吸煙，管理人或員工應即時要求違例吸煙者將煙支、雪茄或煙斗弄熄。如該人不合作，管理人可召喚警務人員協助。



處理違例吸煙者的程序

有人在遊戲機中心吸煙

遊戲機中心管理人或員工上前勸喻，緊記：

- 1) 保持禮貌
- 2) 指出法例禁止在遊戲機中心內吸煙
- 3) 友善地要求吸煙者弄熄煙支或離開

吸煙者
弄熄煙支或
離開

勸喻成功

吸煙者
繼續
不合作

- 1) 堅定立場，再次要求吸煙者弄熄煙支或離開遊戲機中心
- 2) 指出違反法例可被罰款
- 3) 要求吸煙者提供姓名、地址及身分證明文件

吸煙者
不理會勸喻

- 1) 召喚其他同事協助
- 2) 必要時通知警方到場





3.2 準備周詳 配套充足

加強對員工的培訓

管理人應教育所有員工，明白遊戲機中心已根據法例推行全面禁煙的措施，並解釋禁煙措施能為員工及顧客帶來清新的環境。同時，應



向員工提供培訓，教導他們條例賦予的職權及勸喻技巧，以便他們能有效履行職責，順利勸止顧客吸煙，確保遊戲機中心範圍內無煙。

移除遊戲機中心內的煙灰缸



在遊戲機中心內設置煙灰缸會令顧客誤會遊戲機中心內允許吸煙，所以，管理人應移走所有煙灰缸。若顧客要求提供煙灰缸，應婉拒及向他/她解釋法例規定。



展示禁煙標貼

我們建議管理人應在遊戲機中心當眼處展示清晰的禁煙標誌，以提醒顧客及員工在遊戲機中心內禁止吸煙，方便管理人遇到違例事件時進行勸喻。

鼓勵吸煙員工戒煙

管理人應讓吸煙員工明白禁煙措施是為了他們本身的健康設想，而並非針對他們的個人吸煙行為。管理人應鼓勵員工戒煙並提供適當的協助，例如：提供戒煙途徑的資料、勉勵或獎賞成功戒煙的員工以示支持。





3.3 提升技巧 禮貌勸喻

根據經驗，只要管理人作出禮貌提醒，並在中心內四周張貼禁煙標誌，大部分吸煙者經勸喻後都會合作，順應要求弄熄煙支或離開禁止吸煙區。

管理人應提醒員工，當作出勸喻時，應先明確表示遊戲機中心的室內及室外地方均屬法定禁煙區，並以禮貌態度及適當語句，如：『麻煩你』、『請你』、『唔該你』、『唔好意思』等作出勸喻，吸煙者得悉禁煙規定後通常會弄熄手中的煙支。

以下是一些勸喻用語的建議：

『先生／小姐，唔好意思，法例規定遊戲機中心範圍唔食得煙嘅，麻煩你整熄支煙。』

『先生／小姐，請你唔好食煙，因為遊戲機中心已經全面禁煙，唔該晒。』

『先生／小姐，二手煙會影響到其他顧客，所以真係唔好意思，麻煩整熄支煙。』

當管理人作出勸喻時要注意對方的精神狀態，例如：是否醉酒，切勿與吸煙者有身體接觸，或以命令式語氣要求吸煙者弄熄煙支，例如：『喂，整熄支煙啦！』，以免引起衝突或爭吵。



處理即時問題

若經管理人或獲授權員工勸喻後，吸煙者仍不合作、出現暴力行為，甚至破壞公共秩序，管理人可即時召喚警務人員協助執行條例的規定。



4. 支援及協助

4.1 衛生署控煙辦公室

衛生署控煙辦公室於2001年成立，致力向大眾市民推廣無煙文化，教育及協助各公眾場所的管理人執行控煙措施以保障大眾市民免受吸煙及二手煙的損害。控煙辦公室的控煙督察則負責執行法例和處理市民投訴有關違例吸煙的個案。

另一方面，我們亦透過宣傳和教育工作，協助吸煙者戒煙。

4.2 控煙法例講座

控煙辦公室經常舉辦「吸煙(公眾衛生)條例講座」，目的是加強各場所管理人及員工對條例的認識及提升他們的執行技巧，以便能更有效地落實推行禁煙措施。

控煙法例講座的內容包括：香港的吸煙情況、禁煙法例概況、給管理人的建議、處理違例吸煙者的方法和技巧、戒煙服務簡介等。歡迎遊戲機中心的管理人參加，如有需要，亦可於控煙辦公室網頁www.tco.gov.hk下載「吸煙(公眾衛生)條例講座」申請表，填妥後郵寄或傳真至本辦公室。





4.3 健康教育素材

除了本實施指引外，我們還製作了一系列禁煙標誌（鋁片、標貼和紙板控煙督察等）、海報及小冊子等健康教育素材免費提供予遊戲機中心，以配合管理人落實推行無煙措施。有意申請素材的遊戲機中心管理人，可瀏覽控煙辦公室網頁www.tco.gov.hk，並下載健康教育素材申請表，填妥後郵寄或傳真至本辦公室。



4.4 戒煙服務

為鼓勵及協助遊戲機中心員工戒煙，衛生署現正提供尼古丁替代療法的戒煙課程，並設立戒煙熱線1833 183，為市民提供電話或面見的戒煙輔導服務及戒煙資訊。衛生署、東華三院、醫院管理局及博愛醫院均提供戒煙服務。市民可透過衛生署綜合戒煙熱線1833 183揀選所需服務，內容包括：戒煙評估測試、戒煙貼士及戒煙藥物資料等。

衛生署綜合戒煙熱線 - 1833 183 :

按1字：衛生署戒煙熱線

按2字：東華三院戒煙熱線

按3字：醫院管理局無煙熱線

按4字：博愛中醫戒煙服務熱線

戒煙服務中心/診所(提供藥物療法和輔導服務) :

香港區

東華三院戒煙綜合服務中心-灣仔服務處

地址：灣仔駱克道194-200號東新商業中心17樓

九龍區

衛生署牛頭角戒煙診所

地址：牛頭角定安街60號牛頭角賽馬會診所2樓衛生署家庭醫學
深造培訓中心

東華三院戒煙綜合服務中心-旺角服務處

地址：旺角廣華街42號廣發商業中心26樓2602-05室

新界區

東華三院戒煙綜合服務中心-沙田服務處

地址：沙田瀝源街9號瀝源健康院3樓

東華三院戒煙綜合服務中心-屯門服務處

地址：屯門蝴蝶邨蝴蝶灣社區中心4樓



尼古丁替代療法

目的：幫助舒緩戒煙者於戒煙初期可能感到的不適症狀

療法：戒煙香口膠、戒煙貼和戒煙吸劑

療效：資料顯示正確使用尼古丁替代療法能使戒煙成功機會倍增

4.5 控煙問題的查詢

如遊戲機中心管理人對實行無煙措施有任何疑問或需要協助，可聯絡衛生署控煙辦公室查詢及投訴熱線：2961 8823。



5. 常見問題

遊戲機中心員工如何處理不合作的違例吸煙客人？

經過向違例吸煙客人禮貌的勸喻後，如對方仍不合作，管理人應堅定立場再作解釋及勸喻，同時召喚同事或主管協助。如屢勸無效，你可作出口頭警告，指出違例吸煙可被罰款，以及要求吸煙者離開禁煙範圍。有需要時，應召喚警務人員到場協助。警務人員到場前，為避免衝突，應與吸煙者保持適當距離。



管理人可否要求控煙辦公室提供協助？

可以。如管理人對現行法例有任何疑問，或場所內的吸煙問題難以解決，可致電控煙辦公室查詢及投訴熱線2961 8823。但由於吸煙過程一般只維持數分鐘，控煙督察亦難以即時趕到現場作出協助，但控煙辦公室必定會跟進所有查詢及投訴。如管理人遇到緊急情況，可致電警方尋求協助。



在其他國家是否有同樣的禁煙規例？

現在大部分先進國家都推行室內公眾地方全面禁煙，以保障大眾市民的健康，例如：愛爾蘭、意大利、美國紐約和加州、瑞典及新加坡等。香港作為一個國際大都會，應該與時並進，有效地落實禁煙政策。

6. 齊來支持落實禁煙措施

其實，香港大部分市民均支持室內公眾地方禁煙，而吸煙的人口比率更是逐漸下降，可見實施無煙措施正是大勢所趨。

另外，實施無煙措施既可保障員工及顧客的健康，又能为遊戲機中心增加客人流量及擴大客源，並降低經營成本，從而提升盈利。

要成功落實及貫徹執行禁煙措施，確實需要各界配合，最重要是業界及市民能共同努力，將香港建立成為一個無煙的城市。



聯絡我們

查詢及投訴熱線：2961 8823

戒煙熱線：1833 183

圖文傳真：2575 8944

地址：香港灣仔皇后大道東213號胡忠大廈18樓

網址：www.tco.gov.hk



6. Your Support is Crucial for the Implementation of Smoke-free Amusement Game Centres

In Hong Kong, most of the people support the smoking ban in public indoor area and the percentage of smokers has been falling gradually over the years. Therefore, the enactment of tobacco control measures is an irresistible trend.

Moreover, tobacco control measures not only safeguard the health of the staff and customers, but also increase customer flow, broaden customer base, cut operation costs and increase the profit.

The successful and sustaining implementation of smoking ban requires concerted effort from all sectors. The industry and the community should join hands in developing Hong Kong into a smoke-free city.



Contact Us

Enquiry and Complaint Hotline : 2961 8823

Smoking Cessation Hotline : 1833 183

Fax : 2575 8944

Address : 18/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Website : www.tco.gov.hk



5. Frequently Asked Questions

How should staff of amusement game centres deal with uncooperative smoking customers?

If the smoking customer is uncooperative despite staff's polite request, the venue manager of the amusement game centre should stand firm, explain and give advice once more. If your repeated requests are still in vain, you may give a verbal warning indicating that the smoking offence is subject to a penalty and request the smoker to leave the amusement game centre. If the manner of the smoker turns worse, you may call the police for assistance. Step back and keep away from the smoker to avoid conflicts before police arrival.



Can venue managers of amusement game centres request the help from Tobacco Control Office?

Yes. If venue managers of amusement game centres have any enquiry on the tobacco control issues, or when they have any difficulties on implementing the smoke-free measures, they can call the enquiry and complaint hotline of the Tobacco Control Office at 2961 8823.

However, as smoking usually lasts for only a few minutes, it is impracticable for inspectors to provide assistance on spot immediately upon receipt of complaint. Nonetheless, Tobacco Control Office pledges to follow up all enquiries and complaints. Venue managers should call for police assistance when there is an emergency.

Is the same smoking ban imposed in other countries?



By now, most developed countries including Ireland, Italy, New York and California of the United States, Sweden and Singapore have imposed smoking ban in indoor public places to protect public health. Being an international metropolis, Hong Kong should move with the times and implement an effective smoke-free policy.



Nicotine Replacement Therapy

Purpose: To relieve quitters the possible discomforts during the early stage of quitting

Therapy: Nicotine gums, patches and inhalers

Effect: Studies have shown that proper use of nicotine replacement therapy will double the chance of quitting successfully

4.5 Enquiries on tobacco control issues

For enquiries or assistance concerning the implementation of smoke-free measures, please contact enquiry and complaint hotline of **Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health at 2961 8823**.



Integrated Smoking Cessation Hotline of the Department of Health – 1833 183:

Press 1: Department of Health Smoking Cessation Hotline

Press 2: Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Smoking Cessation Hotline

Press 3: Hospital Authority Quitline

Press 4: Pok Oi Smoking Cessation Service using Traditional Chinese Medicine

Smoking Cessation Centres/Clinics

(Drugs and counselling for smoking cessation are provided)

Hong Kong

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Integrated Centre on

Smoking Cessation-Wan Chai Suboffice

17/F, Tung Sun Commercial Centre, 194-200 Lockhart Road, Wanchai

Kowloon

Department of Health Ngau Tau Kok Smoking Cessation Clinic

Education and Training Centre in Family Medicine,

2/F, Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club Clinic, 60 Ting On Street, Ngau Tau Kok

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Integrated Centre on

Smoking Cessation-Mongkok Suboffice

Rm 2602-05, 26/F, Wealth Commercial Centre, 42 Kwong Wa Street, Mongkok

New Territories

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Integrated Centre on

Smoking Cessation-Shatin Suboffice

3/F, Lek Yuen Health Centre, 9 Lek Yuen Street, Shatin

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Integrated Centre on

Smoking Cessation-Tuen Mun Suboffice

4/F, Butterfly Bay Community Centre, Butterfly Estate, Tuen Mun



4.3 Health education materials

To facilitate managers of amusement game centres to implement smoke-free measures, we have prepared a series of no smoking signage (plates, stickers and standees etc.), posters, pamphlets, as well as this implementation guide and other free materials. Interested parties can download the Health Education Materials Application Form from Tobacco Control Office's website www.tco.gov.hk, and fill in the form and send to our office by fax or post.



4.4 Smoking cessation services

To encourage and assist employees of amusement game centres to quit smoking, the Department of Health has made available a smoking cessation course on Nicotine Replacement Therapy and set up a cessation hotline at 1833 183 to provide the public with over the phone cessation counselling service and cessation information. The Department of Health, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Hospital Authority and Pok Oi Hospital also provide smoking cessation services for quitters. People may select the cessation services required, including cessation assessment, cessation tips and pharmacotherapy information etc, through the integrated smoking cessation hotline at 1833 183.

4. Support and Assistance

4.1 The Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health

The Tobacco Control Office under the Department of Health was established in 2001 to promote smoke-free culture in Hong Kong. We provide education and assistance to managers of public premises for the implementation of tobacco control measures. The responsibility of tobacco control inspectors of Tobacco Control Office is to enforce the Ordinance. They handle the complaints of smoking offences, and carry out enforcement actions against the offenders.

On the other hand, we help smokers to quit smoking through promotion and education among the public.

4.2 Talks on tobacco control legislations

The Tobacco Control Office frequently conducts seminars and health talks on tobacco control legislations. It aims at enhancing the understanding and implementation skills of managers and staff in relation to the Ordinance, so that they can carry out smoke-free measures in their amusement game centres more effectively.



Seminars on tobacco control legislations cover the following areas: smoking prevalence in Hong Kong, overview of tobacco control legislations, advice to managers on the methods and skills of handling smoking offences, and introduction to smoking cessation services, etc. Managers of amusement game centres are welcomed. Please fill in the application form downloaded from Tobacco Control Office's website www.tco.gov.hk and send to our office by post or fax.



Handling uncooperative customers

If the smoker refuses to cooperate after repeated warnings from the manager or authorised employee, or even behaves violently or disrupts the public order, the manager may call the police at once for assistance.





3.3 Enhancing implementation skills

Experience suggests that when a manager advises politely and refers to the no smoking signage displayed around, most smokers will cooperate and extinguish the cigarette or leave the no smoking area as requested.

Managers should remind employees that when advising, they should first explain very clearly to the customer that both the indoor and outdoor areas of the amusement game centre are statutory no smoking areas. The advice should be given in a polite manner with appropriate phrases such as **“excuse me”, “please”, “thank you” and “I’m afraid”** etc. Usually, smokers will extinguish their cigarette when they are informed of the no smoking requirement.

The following are some suggested phrases on advising:

“Excuse me, sir/madam, by law, smoking is not allowed in the amusement game centre. Would you please extinguish your cigarette or move outside to smoke?”

“Sir/Madam, would you please stop smoking? A smoking ban has come into force in this amusement game centre. Thank you.”

“Sir/Madam, secondhand smoke affects other customers. Please excuse me and extinguish your cigarette.”

When giving advice, the manager should pay attention to the customer’s mental state such as drunkenness. Do not have any body contact with the smoker or request the smoker to extinguish the cigarette in a commanding tone, such as “Hey, put out your cigarette!”. This helps to avoid conflicts or quarrels.



Display no smoking signage

Managers should display sufficient number of no smoking signs in prominent positions in order to remind customers and employees that smoking is prohibited in amusement game centres. This helps managers to implement the no smoking requirement.

Encourage employees who smoke to quit smoking

Managers should make employees who smoke understand that the smoke-free policy is for the benefit of their health, rather than an action against their smoking behaviour. Managers should encourage their employees to quit smoking and provide appropriate assistance and support, such as offering smoking cessation information and incentives or rewards to employees who have successfully quit smoking.





3.2 Preparation and logistics

Strengthen the training for employees

Managers should inform all employees that amusement game centres have implemented smoke-free measures pursuant to law and emphasise that a smoke-free amusement game centre allows for a fresh environment for both employees and customers. At the same time, staff training should be provided to make them understand their responsibilities and duties under the Ordinance, and improve their techniques of advising customers. This enables staff to effectively discharge their duties of stopping customers from smoking, thus achieving a smoke-free environment in amusement game centres.



Remove ashtrays from amusement game centres

Placing ashtrays in amusement game centres can mislead customers that smoking is allowed in amusement game centres. Therefore, managers should remove all ashtrays. If a customer requests for an ashtray, employees should decline politely and explain that the amusement game centre has carried out the smoke-free policy under the law.



3. Implementing Smoke-free Measures— Advice to Managers

3.1 Understanding the power conferred by the law

Power of amusement game centre managers and staff

In order to implement smoke-free measures in amusement game centres, the Ordinance empowers amusement game centre managers with certain authority and responsibilities. If anyone is found smoking in an amusement game centre, the manager or staff shall request the smoker to extinguish his/her cigarette, cigar or pipe immediately. If that person refuses to cooperate, the manager may call the police for assistance.



Procedures to handle smoking offences

Someone smokes in an amusement game centre

Staff request the smoker to stop smoking.
Remember to :

- 1) Maintain a polite attitude
- 2) Explain to the smoker that as stipulated in the law, no smoking is allowed in amusement game centres
- 3) Request the smoker to extinguish the cigarette/ leave the amusement game centre

Smoker extinguishes the cigarette/leaves the game centre

Successful intervention



Smoker is uncooperative

- 1) Remain firm and request again
- 2) Point out clearly that smoking in statutory no smoking area is liable to a fine
- 3) Request the smoker to provide his/her name, address and proof of identity

Smoker remains uncooperative

- 1) Call other staff for assistance
- 2) Call for police assistance if necessary



2.3 Broadening the customer base

In Hong Kong, the non-smoking population accounts for about 88% of the total population⁵. The public generally understand that secondhand smoke is harmful to health. Non-smokers usually avoid going into smoke-laden amusement game centres for entertainment. Moreover, customers tend to stay longer in smoke-free game centres with fresh air.

2.4 Reducing the risk of fire

Statistics showed that in 2008⁶, more than 2,300 fires were caused by careless handling or disposal of cigarette ends, matches and candles, etc. Implementing smoke-free measures will substantially reduce the risk of fire caused by disposal of cigarette ends.



5 The Thematic Household Survey Report No. 36 conducted by the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department in 2008 showed that the total number of daily cigarette smokers stood at 676,900, accounting for 11.8% of the population aged 15 or above in Hong Kong.

6 Hong Kong Fire Services Department
URL: <http://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/home/eng/statistic.html> (Assessed on 21 April 2010)

2. Benefits of Implementing Smoke-free Measures

2.1 Safeguarding employees' health

Employees are valuable asset of a company. Tobacco control measures safeguard employees against the impact of secondhand smoke and allow for a clean and healthy environment. This will reduce absenteeism and lead to improved productivity.



2.2 Cutting operation costs

Damage of the air-conditioning and ventilation system due to cigarette smoking (such as smoke etc.) will be minimised. In addition, game machines in smoke-free amusement game centres will not be wrecked by lighted cigarette. As such, maintenance cost for equipment and air-conditioning system can be reduced.



The health hazards faced by employees due to passive smoking

The World Health Organisation has stated that **if a worker works in a secondhand smoke-laden workplace for a long time, the risk of he/she suffering from lung cancer will be increased by 12-19%**³. Moreover, a study reported that the urine cotinine level⁴ of a worker who is exposed to secondhand smoke from customers is two times higher than a worker who has not been exposed to such secondhand smoke.

Other than lung cancer, secondhand smoke will also cause other fatal diseases like heart disease, stroke, etc. Moreover, children exposed to secondhand smoke will increase the risk of having many health problems including otitis media and respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis. Therefore, secondhand smoke not only affects the health of the staff and customers, but also harms their life.



- 3 Tobacco smoke and involuntary smoking: summary of data reported and evaluation. Lyon, International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2004 (IARC Monographs, Vol. 83).
- 4 "Cotinine": when nicotine in tobacco smoke is absorbed in the blood, it undergoes metabolic breakdown into other compounds, including cotinine which can be measured in saliva, urine and blood. Besides, cotinine reflects the level of toxic components in the body that can cause heart disease, cancers and respiratory system diseases. Moreover, it is the best available biomarker of secondhand smoke exposure.



1.2 Hazards of secondhand smoke

Secondhand Smoke = Group A Carcinogen

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of smoke emitted from the burning of tobacco products and smoke exhaled by smokers. It contains over 4,000 hazardous chemicals with over 50 of them are cancer causing agents¹.

Secondhand smoke has been categorised as “Group A Carcinogen”.² If a worker works in a secondhand smoke-laden workplace for a long time, he/she will have a higher risk of suffering from lung cancer and heart disease.



- 1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General – Executive Summary. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.
- 2 Office of Health and Environmental Assessment. Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders. Washington D.C.: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1992.

1. Introduction

To safeguard employees and customers of amusement game centres against health damages caused by secondhand smoke, the indoor and outdoor areas of amusement game centres were designated as no smoking areas in 1990s. In 2007, the Government extended the statutory no smoking areas to all indoor public areas and some outdoor public areas. The no smoking requirement on amusement game centres remains unchanged.

For this purpose, we prepared this implementation guide to give managers and staff of amusement game centres a better understanding of tobacco control legislations and its implementation, so that they can carry out smoke-free measures in their venues more effectively.

1.1 Definition and no smoking requirement of amusement game centres

According to Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance (Cap. 371), “Amusement Game Centre” is defined as “any place in which there is installed or placed for use or operation for the purpose of amusement, recreation or entertainment on payment directly or indirectly of any consideration in money or money’s worth, any machine or device” as stipulated in the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435).

Any person who smokes or carries a lighted cigarette, cigar or pipe in an amusement game centre will be liable to a fine.



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This publication is available free of charge at the Tobacco Control Resource Centre of the Department of Health (Room 1801, 18th Floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong), or at the Tobacco Control Office website at www.tco.gov.hk for download.





Smoke-free Amusement Game Centres Implementation Guide



衛生署控煙辦公室
Tobacco Control Office
Department of Health

