Tobacco or e-cigarette storage options

This factsheet includes some pictures of tobacco or e-cigarette storage devices which are likely to comply with the ban on the display of tobacco, non-tobacco smoking products, smoking accessories, e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories under the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008. Look at these images alongside the Retailer Factsheet “Ban on display of tobacco, smoking and e-cigarette products in retail outlets.”

When this factsheet refers to tobacco and e-cigarette products it means all tobacco products, non-tobacco smoking products, smoking accessories, e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories.

It is up to each retailer to make sure that tobacco, and e-cigarette products cannot be seen by members of the public from inside or outside the premises. Please refer to the Retailer Factsheet “Ban on display of tobacco, smoking and e-cigarette products in retail outlets.” for detailed information on the tobacco and e-cigarette products display ban, including frequently asked questions on common issues, such as restocking and accepting inventory.

There are many ways in which premises retailing tobacco and e-cigarette products may be configured. The images in this factsheet do not represent a complete list of all possible compliant storage options. This factsheet is intended to provide general information to retailers and is not legal advice. One option which suits one retailer may not suit another retailer. Choose a storage arrangement that suits your business needs, but make sure that the arrangement meets the display ban requirements under the law.

Consider whether the storage arrangements presented in this factsheet would be effective for your store layout, particularly whether customers would be exposed to tobacco or e-cigarette products in the store. Also consider how your employees’ use of the arrangements may lead to a risk of non-compliance. For example, if doors are left open by staff, the risk of non-compliance will be greater.
Retailers, who store tobacco or e-cigarette products either above or below the sales counter must ensure that the products are covered up and not in the view of the public.

Conceal the front of clear plastic or transparent shelves with an opaque cover so that the entire facing of tobacco or e-cigarette products can not be seen.

Spring loaded self closing doors
Tobacco or e-cigarette products or shelves are concealed by an opaque flap up, drop down cover.

Drawers with an opaque flip up cover and drawer front.
Note: The cupboard doors in this arrangement are not mandatory, however stores may wish to utilise these for lockable storage of tobacco or e-cigarette products.
Under Section 9 (1) of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008, the occupier of premises where tobacco and e-cigarette products are sold must ensure that members of the public cannot see any of these products, from inside or outside the premises.

This picture depicts the type of storage solutions which may be a suitable, low cost option for small businesses stocking a limited range of tobacco or e-cigarette products in a small sized display cabinet (3-5 shelves).

Proprietors utilising an arrangement of this type must note that:

- The tobacco or e-cigarette products must only be visible to the customer for the moment when the staff member/sales assistant removes the packet from the shelf for a sale. Immediately after which, the covering must automatically return to a position which completely blocks the remaining tobacco or e-cigarette products from view;

- Using these arrangements without appropriate staff training and strict monitoring by the proprietor may increase the risk of non-compliance with the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 requirements, e.g. failing to close doors/drawers/flaps immediately after retrieving a tobacco or e-cigarette product for a customer; and

- Authorised inspectors will be regularly monitoring compliance with the display ban provisions of the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008.