Proposed Adaptation Periods for Amendments to the Smoking (Public Health) Ordinance

Nature	Proposed Legislative Amendment	Proposed Adaptation Date
Expansion of Statutory No Smoking Areas	• To prohibit smoking in all indoor workplaces and public places; the indoor areas of all restaurants, karaoke establishments and bars open to all age groups; the entirety of child care centres, schools, approved institutions, places of detention or refuge and reformatory schools; the indoor areas of hospitals, maternity homes, residential care homes, treatment centres and universities.	1 January 2007
	• To exempt domestic premises, living accommodation provided by employers to employees, bedspace apartments, rooms in hotels or guesthouses and designated areas in the Airport Authority and correctional facilities from the smoking ban.	1 January 2007
	 To allow for specified tasting rooms in cigar shops and manufacturing or business premises of tobacco companies. 	1 January 2007
	 To prohibit smoking in the indoor areas of bars open to those aged 18 and above only, mahjong parlors, commercial bathhouses, mahjong clubs and nightclubs. 	1 July 2009
	Related Amendments	
	 To repeal Schedules 3 and 4 and relevant definitions in section 2 of the Ordinance 	1 January 2007
	• To revise the definition of "manager" and "no smoking area" correspondingly.	1 January 2007
	• To repeal the existing section 3(1C) of the Ordinance, which allows managers of restaurants to designate not less than one-third of the area to be non smoking.	1 January 2007
	• To repeal the existing section 6A of the Ordinance, which requires the display of signs outside restaurants. Coincidentally, to put in place new requirements to post signs in both indoor and outdoor no smoking areas.	1 January 2007

Advertisement and Promotion of Tobacco Products	• To revoke the current exemption on display of tobacco advertisement at retail outlets employing 2 employees or less.	1 July 2007
	To revoke the current exemption on display of tobacco advertisement at licensed hawker stalls.	1 July 2009
	To impose new requirements on price boards and price markers.	1 January 2007
	To prohibit the package sale of a tobacco product with any other merchandise.	1 January 2007
	• To further restrict the appearance of brand name of tobacco product in the advertisement of non-tobacco products and in sponsored events.	1 January 2007
	• To prohibit the printing of documents that are tobacco advertisements in Hong Kong.	1 January 2007
Packaging of Tobacco Products	 To require the package of tobacco products to bear health warnings with pictorial or graphic contents. 	1 July 2007
	To increase the area containing the health warnings of any tobacco product packet/container to at least 50% of the principal display surfaces.	
	 To require grandfathered brands to bear a notation in the prescribed form on cigarette packets.* 	
Law Enforcement	To enable the staff of Tobacco Control Office to take enforcement actions against the offences in the Ordinance (except offences in Part III, which are enforceable by the Customs and Excise Service).	Immediately upon publication of the Ordinance in the Gazette
	 To increase the penalty level for offences relating to restrictions on the sale of tobacco products and the publication or display of tobacco advertisements. 	1 January 2007

^{*} Proposal not yet fully discussed by the Bills Committee.