

Public Smoking Ban in European Countries

Since the ban in Ireland, countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden have looked at sensible alternatives to blanket bans. In the 6 months period from September 2004 through March 2005, over 10 countries in Europe have proposed new Public Smoking regulation, but only Scotland has advocated a total ban.

UK

- End of 2006 : all central government departments to be smoke free
- End of 2007 : ban smoking in all enclosed public places and workplace
- End of 2008 :
 - o Restaurants : 100% smoke free
 - o Bars & pubs preparing & serving food : 100% smoke free
 - o Other bars & pubs : free to choose to allow smoking
 - o Membership clubs : free to choose to allow smoking
 - o Smoking in bar area prohibited

Italy

- Designated smoking room (completely enclosed and supported with high standard ventilation system) not to exceed 49% of the total area allowed in workplace and HORECA outlets
- Private clubs exempted

Netherlands

- The HORECA Asso. has agreed a "Step Plan" with the government which allows for progressive restrictions over 5 years
- At the end of 2008, total smoking ban will be implemented in restaurants and hotel room only. The rest of the venues continue to enjoy certain level of flexibility.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Smoke-free zone in Cafes		25%	40%	60%	75%
Smoke-free zone in restaurants		25%	50%	75%	100%
Hotel – no smoking during breakfast		20%	40%	75%	95%
Hotel – Smoke-free rooms		40%	75%	100%	100%
Smoke-free zone in fastfood stores		25%	50%	70%	80%
Completely smoke-free fastfood stores		20%	30%	40%	50%
Smoke free zone in Disco		25%	40%	60%	75%

Austria

- Effective 1 January 2005, under the amendments to the Tobacco Law, smoking is prohibited in public places except in designated smoking areas. This does not apply to hospitality industry and tobacconist shops.
- Federal Ministry has agreed to abstain from legislation provided that certain thresholds of compliance are reached in 3 years
 - o 31 Dec 2004 : 30% of the seating to be set as non-smoking
 - o 31 Dec 2005 : 60% of the seating to be set as non-smoking
 - o 31 Dec 2006 : 90% of the seating to be set as non-smoking
- Outlets with less than 75 m² of space for guests are exempt.

Germany

- Effective 1 March 2005, under the agreement between German Hotel and Restaurant Association and the Federal Ministry of Health, Smoking restrictions in hospitality venues are to be phased in over a period of 3 years.
 - o 1 Mar 2006 : at least 30% of all venues offering food to allocate minimum 30% of total area as smoke free
 - o 1 Mar 2007 : at least 60% of all venues offering food to allocate minimum 40% of total area as smoke free
 - o 1 Mar 2008 : at least 90% of all venues offering food to allocate minimum 50% of total area as smoke free
- Smoking ban does not apply to small establishments with less than 40 seats
"Venues offering food shall mean businesses that regularly offer food for consumption on the premises, including in particular restaurants, taverns, catering outlets in railway stations, motorway service stations and airports, canteens, bistros, cafés, tea rooms and ice cream parlours. Businesses that only offer snacks will not be affected by this agreement. "Snacks" shall be narrowly interpreted and include products such as crisps, crackers and biscuits, hamburger patties and sandwiches".

Norway

- A 10 year phase in plan which came into effect in 2005.

Sweden

- Smoking is prohibited in all premises to which general public has access, however smoking is permitted in restaurants and other catering premises in separate rooms, as long as they form the smaller part of the catering premises' area.

Portugal

- HORECA outlets excluded from the smoking ban

Public Smoking Ban in Asian Countries

Singapore

- Smoking allowed in designated smoking room with separate ventilation
- Smoking allowed in night entertainment outlets, including clubs, bars and pubs that serves finger food

Thailand

- Smoking is allowed in air-conditioned restaurants servicing people of age 20 and above

Dubai

- Smoking ban in shopping malls after 3 weeks of its introduction because
 - o Its impact on the retail industry which accounts for 17% of GCC and given the climate conditions, there is 30% greater usage of shopping malls in Dubai than anywhere else in the world
 - o Dubai wants to be perceived as an open and liberal city where people of different cultures and attitudes can live together and tourists can enjoy all its pleasure.