

Smoking Ban

The ban on smoking in all enclosed public spaces comes into force on

April 2nd in Wales

July 1st in England

There are a number of steps welfare can make to be ready for the ban and help minimise harmful effects. There are also some things that will need to be done to make sure you are compliant with the law.

Smoking Shelters

These can vary from a bus stop style shelter that simply keeps the rain off to a seating area with half walls and heaters.

You need to consider

How many smokers are likely to use it at any one time, a shelter for 4 with 20 smokers is almost as bad as one built for 12 with one lone puffer using it.

The location of the shelter, something by the front door could act as a deterrent to non smoking customers, and also look pretty bad to passing residents.

The cost, not just of construction but any maintenance that could arise. (For example something with glass windows open to public areas could be vandalised)

The design will have to comply with the definition of what is not an enclosed space, check the regulation issued by the local authority carefully, but essentially it will need to have enough open spaces in the walls to make sure that it cannot be counted as a building, probably 50% minimum will need to be open.

Will planning permission be needed? If so how long does it take to go through? (Remember planning committees could be faced with hundreds of requests and delays are almost certain)

There may be a need to revise your club premises licence if the outside area can be used for drinking. Check where drinking is allowed under your licence and seek guidance from the licensing office or CISWO if in doubt.

Shelter ashtrays

You will need these by the front door anyway, but also in the shelter. They need to be solid to make sure they cannot be damaged or stolen easily, and will have to be emptied regularly.

If seating is being provided that will need to be secured and easily cleaned to minimise extra work.

If it is in an area accessible by the public unauthorised use may be a risk, you won't want it to become the newest drinking/smoking place for the local teenagers

Door Ashtrays

You will need to have wall or floor mounted ashtrays at the entrances to the welfare, to make sure people can stub out their cigarettes, that you don't end up with a pile of dog ends outside the door, and to emphasise that it is now a no smoking building.

Inside the buildings ashtrays must not be provided as this could be seen as evidence that you are not trying to enforce the ban.

Signs

Signs pointing out the law comes in force on July 1st and what it means to smokers should be displayed well in advance. (see sample below). Don't just wait until the last minute and find that half your customers are lighting up because they claim they didn't know the law applied to them.

From July 1st No Smoking signs must be prominently displayed around the welfare. A failure to have No Smoking signs could result in an on-the-spot fine of £200.

Guidance on the exact language you will need to use will be issued nearer the ban date but it will need to be clear, along the lines of "This building is no smoking throughout, smoking is not allowed on these premises." facing every entrance door. This sign must be easy to see, and very explicit. Asking people politely not to smoke is not enough it must clearly state that smoking is not allowed.

In every room, including the toilets, a clear and prominently placed "No Smoking" sign

In some cases warning signs that make it clear that smoking will lead to expulsion from the premises may be necessary.

Remember while a smoker caught smoking in unauthorised areas faces a £50 fine; the welfare could be fined £2500 for not preventing him from smoking. Anyone who lights up is risking not just his money, but also yours.

Cleaning and Decorating.

Some rooms have been more affected by smoke than others. A large high ceiling concert room may not show signs from smoking. A small bar used mainly for drinking and smoking could reek of smoke Consider redecorating the rooms most affected and certainly have a through extra cleaning done to help remove the signs of smoke damage.

Training

All staff and welfare/club officers must know that the law is in force and what it means. This includes staff being aware that it is their responsibility to tell those who try and ignore the ban to either put their cigarettes out immediately or leave the building.



SMOKING BAN

JULY 1st 2007

From July 1st 2007 the law will ban smoking in all enclosed public buildings.

From that date this welfare and all the buildings that we manage and control will be no smoking areas.

If anyone is found smoking in our premises on or after that date they could be fined £50 and we could be fined

£2500

So from July 1st this will be a non-smoking building and any members or visitors found smoking would be asked to leave the premises immediately.

