STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 0000

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 (Age of Sale Notices and Consequential Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - - ***

Coming into operation *1st January 2027*

The Department of Health(a) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 4D(4) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(b) and section 171 of the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026(c).

Citation and Commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 (Age of Sale Notices and Consequential Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

(2) These Regulations come into operation on 1st January 2027.

Age of sale notice at point of sale: minimum size

2. The size of the notice to be displayed in accordance with Article 4D(4) of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (Age of sale notice at point of sale) must be a minimum of 297 millimetres by 420 millimetres.

Age of sale notice at point of sale: size of statement

3. The size of the statement to be displayed on the notice referred to in regulation 2 must be such that each character is a minimum of 21 millimetres high.

Amendment of The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

4.—(1) The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012(d) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 4 (Display as a consequence of a requested display), in paragraph (1), for "aged 18 or over" substitute "born before 1st January 2009".

(3) In regulation 5 (Display in bulk tobacconists)—

(a) Formerly the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (see 2016 c. 5)
(b) S.I. 1978/1907 (N.I. 26). Article 4D was inserted by section 76 of The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 (c. 18)
(c) 2026 c. 18
(d) S.R. 2012 No. 246

(a) in paragraph (2)(b), for "under the age of 18" substitute "born on or after 1st January 2009";

(b) in paragraph (3), for "36" substitute "21".

Amendment of The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display of Prices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

5.—(1) The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display of Prices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012(**a**) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 7 (Price lists: available only on request)—

(a) in paragraph (1)(a), for "aged 18 or over" substitute "born before 1st January 2009";

(b) in paragraph (1)(b), for "is aged 18 or over" substitute "was born before 1st January 2009";

(c) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the words before sub-paragraph (a), for "is aged 18 or over" substitute "was born before 1st January 2009";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (a), for "aged under 18" substitute "born on or after 1st January 2009";

(iii) in sub-paragraph (b), for "age" substitute "date of birth".

Revocation

6. The Protection from Tobacco (Display of Warning Statements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993(**b**) are revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health on ***

L.S.

A senior officer of the Department of Health

(a) S.R. 2012 No. 341
(b) S.R. 1993 No. 35

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations specify requirements for the age of sale notice which a tobacco retailer selling tobacco products on premises in Northern Ireland must display in accordance with Article 4D(4) of the Health and Personal Social Services Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1907) (N.I. 26)) and also make consequential amendments to existing Northern Ireland secondary legislation governing the display of tobacco products and prices of tobacco on premises in Northern Ireland where tobacco products are offered for sale.

Regulation 2 prescribes the minimum dimensions of the notice displaying a warning statement which must be displayed on premises in Northern Ireland at which tobacco products are sold by retail.

Regulation 3 prescribes the minimum size of the statement to be contained in that notice.

Regulation 4 amends The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 to replace references to an individual being "aged 18 or over" or "aged under 18" with references to an individual's date of birth, in consequence of the 2026 Act changing the required age at which an individual can legally be sold tobacco products from 18 years or over, to having been born before 1 January 2009. Regulation 4 also amends the minimum size of the statement on the notice to be displayed by bulk tobacconists to ensure alignment with the corresponding age of sale requirements for tobacco retailers under Regulation 3.

Regulation 5 amends The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display of Prices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 to make equivalent substitutions in provisions relating to the display of prices of tobacco products on premises in Northern Ireland.

Regulation 6 revokes The Protection from Tobacco (Display of Warning Statements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 (SR 1993 No. 35).

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.