

V Manjula, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government



**Department of
Information Technology,
Biotechnology and
Science & Technology,
Government of Karnataka**

6th Floor, 5th Stage, M.S. Buildings,
Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore - 560 001. INDIA
Ph : 22280562, 22374314, 22032434
Fax: 22288340
26th October, 2015

Dear *Sri Buren,*

Sub: Implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 - reg

Tobacco is one of the world's leading preventable causes of death and disability, killing more than 10 lakh people in India annually. The Global Adult Tobacco Survey, by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, reveals that 28% of Karnataka population is exposed to harmful effects of passive cigarette smoke.

As per Section 4 of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 (COTPA), smoking is banned in all public places in India to protect the passive smokers. The IT sector in Karnataka is an important sector with more than 2000 companies and employing several lakhs of people who may be vulnerable to passive smoking owing to prevalence of smoking habits in campus / office. Hence, it is important for companies to comply with section 4 of COTPA and prohibit smoking in office and campus. This would also persuade smokers to quit smoking and adopt healthier life styles while protecting passive smokers.

You are requested to take cognizance of this important matter and take up 'Tobacco control' as one of the agendas in your company and implement the following:

- All offices need to put up signage as per COTPA specification (template below)
- These boards need to be displayed prominently at the entrance of the public place; in case there is more than one entrance at each such entrance and conspicuous place(s) inside including each floor, staircase and entrance to the lift/s at each floor.
- Spread awareness about the online portal developed by National Informatics centre <http://cotpa.kar.nic.in/CivilSociety.aspx> to file any complaints by the public on COTPA implementation.

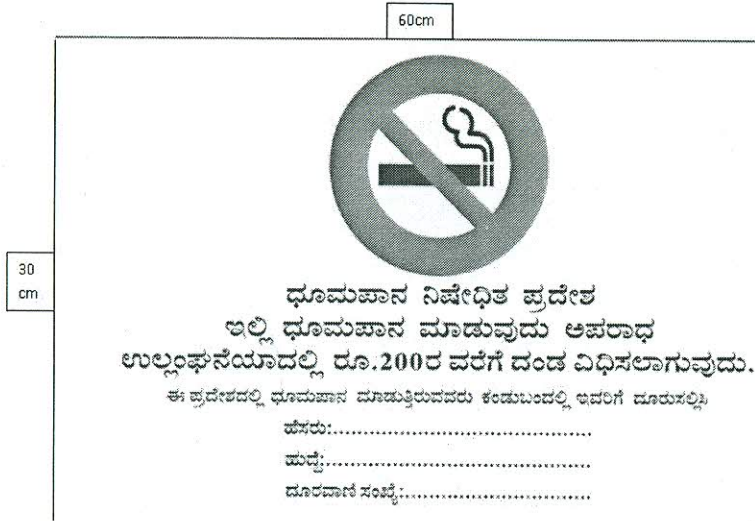
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We would also request companies to take proactive roles to:

- Form self-help groups to encourage employees quit tobacco by conducting invited talks from doctors on tobacco hazards
- Spread awareness on tobacco hazards within the company via – invited talks, staff email chains, monthly newsletter, flash mobs, celebrating world health day, cancer awareness day, world no tobacco day etc.
- Include tobacco control activities in the companies CSR budget to help make workplaces healthier for all employees

Institute of Public Health or other cancer centres such as Kidwai Memorial Institute of oncology, HealthCare Global Cancer Centre and others who are active in cancer prevention could be invited to conduct awareness campaigns or deaddiction to assist tobacco consumers.

Further clarification and resource material can be requested by email to hpctobacco@karnataka.gov.in



For any technical assistance in this regard individuals at the Institute of Public Health can be contacted at mail@iphindia.org

With regards

Shri. Biren Ghose,
President, ABAI,
613, 2nd Floor,
1st Main Rd, Sector 6,
HSR Layout,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560102

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]