

Australian Government roles and responsibilities in addressing Illicit Tobacco

Do you have a question regarding government agencies responsibilities for illicit tobacco? Let us help you find the right answer.

For enquiries relating to:	Contact Agency and relevant legislation	Responsibility	Email or Phone enquiries
<p>Any tobacco product that does not meet the plain packaging requirements</p> <p>Advertising that gives publicity to or promotes smoking, or tobacco products</p>	<p>Department of Health</p> <p><i>Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011</i> (TPP Act) and Regulations</p> <p><i>Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act 1992</i> (TAP Act) and Regulations</p>	<p>Operationally, the Department of Health does not directly regulate, or undertake compliance activities relating to illicit tobacco.</p> <p>The Department has powers to act under the <i>Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011</i> (TPP Act), where illicit tobacco is sold or supplied in packaging that does not meet the requirements of the legislation. The TPP Act does not specifically target or define illicit tobacco.</p> <p>Further information, including resources for manufacturers/ importers/ suppliers of tobacco products on tobacco plain packaging requirements is available on Health's Tobacco plain packaging page.</p> <p>The Department has broad and lead policy responsibility for health related issues in relation to tobacco control and as Australia's focal point for the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) including on illicit tobacco.</p> <p>The Department also has responsibility for administering the <i>Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act 1992</i> and conducts investigations into potential breaches. Further information on this legislation is available on Health's Tobacco advertising page.</p>	<p>For further information on tobacco plain packaging or tobacco advertising or to report a potential breach of the <i>Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011</i>, or <i>Tobacco Advertising Prohibition Act 1992</i> please email ppcomplaints@health.gov.au</p> <p>or</p> <p>tobaccoadvertising@health.gov.au</p> <p>For phone enquiries relating to tobacco plain packaging or tobacco advertising please call the Tobacco Plain Packaging complaints line on 1800 062 971.</p>

Home Affairs Portfolio

For enquiries relating to:	Contact Agency and relevant legislation	Responsibility	Email or Phone enquiries
<p>Cross-border trade in tobacco</p> <p>Customs duty on imported tobacco</p>	<p>Department of Home Affairs</p>	<p>The Department of Home Affairs serves an important role in whole-of-government activity by leading operational and regulatory initiatives to tackle the illicit tobacco trade, managing the tobacco excise equivalent goods regime in partnership with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and supporting national health outcomes.</p>	<p>Make an enquiry</p> <p>Frequently asked questions regarding travel or trade, including bringing goods in and out of Australia, are answered on the Department of Home Affairs website at: Department of Home Affairs – Departmental forms</p> <p>If your query is still unanswered you can contact Home Affairs by phone, Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm (AEST) on 131 881 in Australia, except public holidays.</p>
<p>Illicit trade in imported tobacco</p>	<p>Australian Border Force</p>	<p>The Australian Border Force (ABF) is responsible for operational activities at the Australian border, including investigation, compliance and enforcement functions for tobacco. Policy, regulatory and corporate support for the ABF is delivered by the Department of Home Affairs.</p> <p>Illicit tobacco is a priority operational focus for the ABF. The ABF leads a multi-agency Illicit Tobacco Taskforce (ITTF) that targets and prosecutes the most serious and organised elements of the illicit tobacco trade, including their global supply chains. The ITTF applies an intelligence informed approach to identify, disrupt and dismantle organised criminal groups engaged in the supply of illicit tobacco.</p>	<p>Report Suspicious Behaviour</p> <p>Border Watch is the ABF's single collection point for community and industry information about activities which attempt to circumvent Australia's customs, trade and border protection controls.</p> <p>The ABF strongly encourages you to report suspected trade in illicit tobacco to Border Watch toll-free on 1800 06 1800, or by using the anonymous online form located at: Department of Home Affairs – Border Watch Online Report</p>

For enquiries relating to:	Contact Agency and relevant legislation	Responsibility	Email or Phone enquiries
<p>Health warning labelling of tobacco products</p> <p>Reduced fire risk cigarettes</p> <p>Any chewing tobacco and snuffs intended for oral use</p>	<p>Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)</p> <p><i>Competition and Consumer (Tobacco) Information Standard 2011</i></p> <p>Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standard) (Reduced Fire Risk Cigarettes) Regulations 2008</p> <p><i>Consumer Protection Notice No. 10 of 1991</i> ban on the supply of chewing tobacco and snuffs intended for oral use.</p>	<p>The ACCC enforces the <i>Competition and Consumer Act 2010</i>, which includes consumer product safety requirements of the Australian Consumer Law (ACL). Under the ACL, the ACCC is responsible for enforcing three product safety-related tobacco regulations:</p> <p>Tobacco health warnings</p> <p>A mandatory information standard exists for the health warning labelling of tobacco products. It applies to all labelling for retail tobacco products, whether manufactured in, or imported into, Australia. The labelling must have warning statements, graphics, and explanatory and information messages. The health warnings must cover a significant part of a retail tobacco package.</p> <p>Reduced fire risk cigarettes</p> <p>All cigarettes manufactured or imported into Australia are subject to the mandatory standard for reduced fire cigarettes. A reduced fire risk cigarette is a cigarette that slows down the rate at which a cigarette burns. The mandatory standard prescribes requirements for the performance, packaging and marking requirements of reduced fire risk cigarettes.</p> <p>Chewing tobacco</p> <p>Smokeless tobacco products, including oral snuff, paste, powders and chewing tobacco are banned from supply in Australia.</p> <p>Further information on reduced fire risk cigarettes, chewing tobacco, or tobacco health warnings can be found at Australia competition and consumer commission (ACCC) – Product safety Australia.</p>	<p>For enquiries or complaints relating to tobacco health warnings, reduced fire risk cigarettes, or chewing tobacco, please use the contact form available at the Product Safety Australia website.</p>

For enquiries relating to:	Contact Agency and relevant legislation	Responsibility	Email or Phone enquiries
If you suspect that tobacco is being grown or manufactured in your community.	Australian Taxation Office	Criminal law treatments – Illicit tobacco investigations. Member of Australian Border Force (ABF) led Illicit Tobacco Taskforce.	If you suspect that tobacco is being grown or manufactured in your community you can confidentially Report a concern or call 1800 060 062.