

NO SMOKING POLICY

(5)

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1 INTRODUCTION

Under the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts 2002-2015, smoking is forbidden in enclosed places of work. This includes office blocks, various buildings, public houses/bars, restaurants and company vehicles (cars and vans).

The purpose of this ban is to offer protection to employees and the public who are exposed to the harmful and toxic effects of tobacco smoke in the workplace. Smoking has been identified as a major cause of heart disease and a significant contributor to lung cancer.

2 OUTDOOR SMOKING AREAS

While smoking in an enclosed workplace is forbidden, employers have discretion to provide an outdoor smoking area, subject to the requirements of the law.

The law has defined an outdoor area as:

- A place or premises, or part of a place or premises, that is wholly uncovered by any roof, fixed or mobile.
- An outdoor place or premises that is covered by a roof, so long as not more than 50% of the perimeter (outside) is covered by a wall, windows, gate or similar.
- CHAS provides no such smoking area as current staff are all non smokers.
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3.COMMON AREAS OF BUILDINGS

The smoking ban also applies to *common areas* within CHAS buildings. This means, for example, that corridors, lobby areas and reception areas of buildings are also covered. It is an offence to smoke in an area that has been designated non-smoking.

If you wish to make a complaint about smoking in a common area of your apartment block, you should first contact CHAS management or the Residents' Association and attempt to reach an agreeable solution. Should you need to take your complaint further, your complaint should be made, in writing, to the Administrator who will take action under CHAS Complaints Policy, available at www.chas.ie

4.ENFORCEMENT OF THE SMOKING BAN

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Inspections to ensure that the ban is being implemented are undertaken by Environmental Health Officers and senior managers within CHAS. The workplace locations visited by the Health and Safety Authority must comply with the smoke-free measures as part of their general compliance with health and safety requirements.

5.OFFENCES

Any person found guilty of breaching the ban on smoking in the workplace may be subject to a Class B fine. The manager or person in charge of the workplace is legally responsible for ensuring that the ban on smoking in the workplace is complied with.