

OREGON'S SMOKEFREE WORKPLACE LAW

What's The Law Regarding Smokefree Workplaces?

Oregon state law prohibits smoking in most workplaces effective January 1, 2002.

The heart of Oregon's Smokefree Workplace Law is ORS 433.835-433.990 which says, with few exceptions, that "an employer shall provide a place of employment that is free of tobacco smoke for all employees."

The law describes "a place of employment" as "every enclosed area under the control of a public or private employer that employees frequent during the course of employment."

What Do Employers Need To Do?

In accordance with the law, employers are required to post "No Smoking" signs at each entrance. They are responsible for ensuring that the workplace is smokefree.

What About Enforcement?

Most workplaces in Oregon are already smokefree. Remaining workplaces must become smokefree effective January 1, 2002. Employees and the public may confidentially report violations of the law by contacting toll-free 1-866-621-6107 or their county health department. Complaints will be investigated and violations pursued.

If your business is not in compliance, you could incur the following fines:

- \$50 per day of noncompliance
- Up to \$1,000 in any 30-day period



How Can Employers Comply With The Law?

Using the following eight steps will help ensure compliance in the workplace.

- ✓ Show support for the law.
- ✓ Post "NO SMOKING" signs at all building entrances, in break rooms and places where employees are used to smoking.
- ✓ Make sure all employees are informed of the law and comply with it by its effective date of January 1, 2002.
- ✓ Encourage employees who smoke to use the January 1 effective date as a date to quit smoking. Encourage them to call Oregon's toll-free Tobacco QUIT LINE at 877-270-STOP or 877-2NO-FUME (Spanish).
- ✓ Remove ashtrays and matchbooks so the message is clear — smoking is no longer allowed in the place of business.
- ✓ Provide training to employees about how to ask visitors and patrons not to smoke.
- ✓ Call your county health department for assistance in implementing the law.
- ✓ Get more detailed information by calling 1-866-621-6107 or by logging on to www.healthoregon.org/tobacco.



How Do Oregonians Benefit From This Law?

Smoking costs employers and employees money. Smokefree workplace laws often serve as an incentive for smokers to quit. When smokers quit, everyone benefits:

EMPLOYERS

- A healthier workforce with fewer sick days
- Possible reduction of health care costs
- Reduction of maintenance costs when smoke is eliminated from the environment (for example: wear and tear on office equipment, carpets and furniture)

EMPLOYEES

- Protection from secondhand smoke that can cause heart disease, lung cancer and poor respiratory health
- Motivation to cut down on the use of tobacco or to quit smoking

COMMUNITIES

- Reduction in the huge economic toll smoking exacts on Oregon — over \$1 billion each year in health care costs and lost productivity due to disease and early death from smoking.



Is there Help For People Who Want To Quit Smoking?

The Smokefree Workplace Law may motivate employees to consider quitting smoking. Help is available to all Oregonians through the statewide Tobacco Quit Line. Employees can call toll-free 877-270-STOP or 877-2NO-FUME (Spanish) for help with quitting tobacco use.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LAW:

1-866-621-6107 (toll-free)

www.healthoregon.org/tobacco

OREGON TOBACCO QUIT LINE:

Toll-Free

1-877-270-STOP

1-877-2NO-FUME

TTY: 1-877-777-6534

(Spanish)