

MODEL POLICY FOR A SMOKEFREE WORKPLACE

October 2009

ABC Company Smokefree Policy

ABC Company is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive work environment for our employees.

The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; (3) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and (4) establishing smokefree workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually.

According to the World Health Organization, scientific evidence has firmly established that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, a pollutant that causes serious illness in adults and children, and that implementing 100% smoke-free environments is the only effective way to protect the population from the harmful effects of exposure to secondhand smoke.

The Americans With Disabilities Act, which requires that disabled persons have access to public places and workplaces, deems impaired respiratory function to be a disability.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the risk of acute myocardial infarction and coronary heart disease associated with exposure to tobacco smoke is non-linear at low doses, increasing rapidly with relatively small doses such as those received from secondhand smoke or actively smoking one or two cigarettes a day, and has warned that all patients at increased risk of coronary heart disease or with known coronary artery disease should avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking.

Smoke-filled workplaces result in higher worker absenteeism due to respiratory disease, lower productivity, higher cleaning and maintenance costs, increased health insurance rates, and increased liability claims for diseases related to exposure to secondhand smoke.

Unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes, or “e-cigarettes,” closely resemble and purposefully mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale vaporized liquid nicotine created by heat through an electronic ignition system. After testing a number of e-cigarettes from two leading manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that various samples tested contained not only nicotine but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, including tobacco-specific nitrosamines and diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. The FDA’s testing also suggested that “quality control processes used to manufacture these products are inconsistent or non-existent.” ([n.a.], "Summary of results: laboratory analysis of electronic cigarettes conducted by FDA," *Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*, July 22, 2009; <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm173146.htm> Accessed on: October 22, 2009) E-cigarettes produce a vapor of undetermined and potentially harmful substances, which may appear similar to the smoke emitted by traditional tobacco products. Their use in workplaces and public places where smoking of traditional tobacco products is prohibited creates concern and confusion and leads to difficulties in enforcing the smoking prohibitions.

In light of these findings, ABC Company shall be entirely smokefree effective ____ [date].

Smoking, including the use of an e-cigarette, shall not be permitted in any enclosed company facility. This includes common work areas, auditoriums, classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, private offices, elevators, hallways, medical facilities, cafeterias, employee lounges, stairs, restrooms, vehicles, and all other enclosed facilities. This policy applies to all employees, clients, contractors, and visitors. Smoking shall be permitted only at a reasonable distance of _____ [*recommended 15-20*] feet outside entrances, operable windows, and ventilation systems of enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited, so as to insure that tobacco smoke does not enter those areas.

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all employees. No Smoking signs shall be posted at entrances to all company facilities.

This policy is being announced three months in advance in order to give smokers time to adapt to its restrictions and to facilitate a smooth transition to a smokefree environment. Those employees who smoke and would like to take this opportunity to quit are invited to participate in the cessation programs being offered by the company.

The success of this policy will depend on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of both smokers and nonsmokers. All employees share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.

Signature of CEO or President

Date: _____

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