

Introduction

Smokefree England legislation becomes law at 6.00 am on Sunday 1st July 2007. It will then be illegal to allow smoking in workplaces in Britain.

So why, when it will be the law, do you need to develop a smoking policy?

A written policy gives a clear outline of how you intend to introduce the smoking ban and enforce it.

For further information of what to include in your policy see the section on how to develop your policy.

The Government has taken the decision to ban smoking to protect workers from the dangers of second hand smoke.

But there are other good reasons to go smokefree:

Economic – each year smoking in the workplace costs businesses billions of pounds. They suffer from lost productivity, absenteeism and increased cleaning, maintenance and insurance costs.

Image – An appropriate smoking policy gives a cleaner, better smelling environment for employees and customers.

Health – It shows a commitment to the well-being of staff and customers and it may help to reduce the risk of being sued because of smoking related ill health claims.

A policy will also help fulfil employers' obligations under Health and Safety law.