

28 March 2007

Education Bureau Circular No. 2/2007
(Formerly referred as EMB Circular No. 2/2007)

Smoking Ban in Schools

- [Note : This circular should be read by –
(a) Supervisors/Heads of all schools – for necessary action; and
(b) Heads of Sections – for information.]

SUMMARY

This circular reminds schools that, in accordance with the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2006, schools have been designated as statutory no smoking areas, and necessary actions should be taken pertinent to the enforcement of the Ordinance.

DETAILS

2. Under the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 (the Ordinance), the statutory no smoking areas have been expanded to cover more venues including schools¹. In other words, smoking is banned in any school with effect from 1 January 2007. Anyone who smokes or carries a lighted cigarette, cigar or pipe within a statutory no smoking area commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$5,000.

3. Schools may visit the following websites for details of the Ordinance and other related information:

- (a) Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health
<http://www.tobaccocontrol.gov.hk>
- (b) The Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health
<http://www.smokefree.hk>

4. While it is not a statutory requirement to display no smoking signs, schools are advised to post no smoking signs in conspicuous spots as appropriate. Schools

¹ “School” means a school within the meaning of section 3 of the Education Ordinance (Cap. 279).

may design their own signs to suit their needs or obtain no smoking signs in various sizes and forms from the Tobacco Control Office (TCO) of the Department of Health direct. Order form is available at the website of the TCO (http://www.tobaccocontrol.gov.hk/eng/images/TCOF033_E.pdf).

5. To be in line with the Government's anti-smoking policy and to live up to public expectations, staff of schools should not be seen smoking in public appearances in an official capacity. Staff of schools are specifically requested not to smoke in the following circumstances:

- (a) when carrying out duties, regardless of whether the venue is indoor or outdoor;
- (b) when appearing on television or likely to be photographed by the press;
or
- (c) when present at press conferences or any publicity-related events.

6. To avoid any possible embarrassment, for events organized or sponsored mainly by schools, schools are urged not to accept financial sponsorship from tobacco companies and, even if such sponsorship is unavoidable, not to include in the publicity materials the name or trademark of such companies. For events organized and sponsored by other private organizations and to be participated by schools, attempts should be made to advise the organizers to avoid accepting sponsorship from tobacco companies. If such is unavoidable, the organizers should be discouraged from including the names of the tobacco companies in any of the publicity materials for any event, and should be advised to avoid any appearance of any names or trade mark of tobacco companies associated with school personnel participating in the event.

ENQUIRY

7. Schools may direct their enquiries to the TCO at 2961 8823.

8. This circular supersedes EMB Circular No. 81/1995 dated 11 October 1995 and EMB Circular No. 31/1996 dated 22 May 1996.

Mrs Fanny K F LAM
for Secretary for Education and Manpower