

minimum age regulations in the EEA and Switzerland – updated September 2012

Country	Law regulating sales to minors	Minimum age for purchase	Fines for sale (Y/N)	Fines for purchase (Y/N)	Minimum age for tobacco consumption	Fine for consumption (Y/N)
Austria	No national laws, but local laws prohibiting sales to under 16, except in lower Austria where it's 15	16 years	Yes	Yes, in most local laws	Some local laws provide for minimum age of 16 years for tobacco consumption	Yes, in some local laws
Belgium	Law of 10 November 04	16 years	Yes	No	No	-
Bulgaria	Law For Tobacco And Tobacco Products (as amended SG 57/2 July 2004)	18 years	Yes	No	No	No
Cyprus	Protection of health (control of smoking) law - 2002	18 years (fines only for sale, not for purchase)	Yes	No	No	No
Czech Republic	Law No. 37/1989	18 years	Yes	No	No	No
Denmark	National law/act no. 536 (17 June 2008)	18 years	Yes	No	No	No
Estonia	Tobacco Act (2001)	18 years	Yes	Yes	18 years	Yes (obtaining and owning of tobacco products by minor - punishable)
Finland	National law dated 1995 1 October 2010 it is illegal for minors below	18 years	Yes (Fine + potential prohibition on	No	No	-

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	the age of 18 years to sell, possess, or bring tobacco products into the country.		sale of tobacco for up to 6 months)			
France	National law	18 years	Yes (135 €)	No	No	No
Germany	Protection of Young Persons Act, 01.09.2007	18 years	Yes	No	Less than 18-year olds are not permitted to smoke in public	No
Greece	Law 3730 for the Protection of Minors from Tobacco and Alcohol and other Regulations, 23.12.08	18 years (vendor must be over 18 as well)	Yes	No	No	No
Hungary	National law	18 years	Yes (max. HUF 100.000/€ 400)	No	Smoking is prohibited for employees less than 16 at workplaces Persons less than 18 years of age are prohibited from smoking publicly even in designated smoking areas.	No
Iceland	Act on the Prevention of the Use of Tobacco, Act No 95/2001,	18 years (vendor must be over 18 as well)	Yes	No	No	-
Ireland	Tobacco Bill 2001	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
Italy	Decree 2316, 1934	16 years	Yes – sales to minor of less than 14 years draw a penal	No	No - but minors of less than 16 years are not allowed to smoke in public.	Yes - minors of less than 16 years are not allowed to smoke in public (administrative penalties).

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			infraction, sales to minors of less than 16 years draw an administrative infraction.			
Latvia	National law	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
Lithuania	Tobacco Control Law, 1995	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
Luxembourg	Anti-Tobacco Law 13 July 06	16 years	Yes	No	No	-
Malta	Law of September 2003	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
The Netherlands	Tobacco act (April 2014).	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
Norway	Social & Health (Social – og helsedepartementet) Legislation 17/2/1995 nr.10	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
Poland	Act of 9 November 1995, on health protection against effects of using tobacco and tobacco products.	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
Portugal	Law No. 37/2007 of 14 Aug 07	18 years	Yes	No	No	-
Romania	Law regarding the approval of the	18 years	Yes	No	No	-

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	Emergency Ordinance of the Government No. 55/1999					
Slovakia	Act on protection of non-smokers, 1997	18 years	Yes	No	18	Persons allowing youth under 18 to smoke will be fined.
Slovenia	Act amending the restriction of consumption of tobacco products (ZOUTI-C) of 22 June 07	18 years (vendor must be over 18 as well)	Yes	No	No	-
Spain	National Law 28/2005	18 years	Yes (sale or supply: 600-10.000 €)	No	No	-
Sweden	Law on the change in the tobacco law, 1997	18 years (vendor must be over 18 as well)	Yes	No	No	-
Switzerland	No national laws, but 7 out of 26 Cantons have laws regulating sales to minors	16 years or 18 years, depending on the canton	Yes and No, depending on the canton	No	No	-
UK	The Children and Young Persons (Sale of Tobacco etc) Order 2007	18 years	Yes	No	No	-