

GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGN OF A SMOKING ROOM

It should now be common knowledge that in terms of the **Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act, 1993 (Act No. 83 of 1993)**, smoking is not allowed in any public places, only in designated smoking areas or rooms.

Smoking areas or rooms

The object is to supply fresh air and to extract smoke from a smoking area or room in order to maintain a negative pressure in such smoking area or room (so that air is prevented from passing back into the building), and to supply the necessary signage, in accordance with the National Building Regulations and the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Act.

Definitions

“Smoking room” in terms of the National Building Regulations, means a dedicated room for smoking purposes only.

“Smoking area” in terms of the Tobacco Products Control Amendments Act, means an area that is partitioned off with a solid partition from floor to ceiling, and may not exceed **25 %** of the total floor area of the public place.

Guidelines

- Smoking areas must be separated by a solid partition with an entrance door on which **“SMOKING AREA”** is displayed, written in black letters, at least **2 cm** in height and **1,5 cm** in width, on a white background.
- The message: **“SMOKING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH AND TO THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN, PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN AND NON-SMOKERS”**, is to be displayed at the entrance to the designated smoking area or smoking room, written in black letters at least **2 cm** in height and **1,5 cm** in width on a white background.
- Notices and signs indicating where smoking is permitted must be permanently displayed and signs indicating that smoking is not permitted, must carry the warning: **“ ANY PERSON WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS NOTICE SHALL BE PROSECUTED AND MAY BE LIABLE TO A FINE”**.
- Artificial ventilation that serves the smoking area or smoking room must comply with the following:

- Maximum occupancy rate must be **1 person per m²**, or equal to the number of seats.
- **7,5 l/s minimum** fresh air supply required per person in a smoking area and **20 l/s minimum** fresh air supply per person in a smoking room.
- The rate of extraction must exceed the rate of supply to such an extent that the area or room, will maintain a negative pressure i.e. air will not pass back into the building. Extract air must exhaust directly to the outside air in such a way that it will not cause a nuisance.
- **Example 1**: In the event of a smoking area or room adjoining an external wall, fresh air may be introduced via openable windows, but the smoke must be extracted via an independent extract system. A registered or competent person must submit a certificate of compliance. No plans are necessary unless structural changes are proposed or a ducted extract system is installed.
- **Example 2**: In the event of a smoking area or room not having an external wall with an openable window, fresh air may be introduced from an existing, if any, air supply system. Such existing system must not be used to extract from such area or room (i.e. return air inlets blanked off). An independent extract system must be installed. Building and Ventilation plans must be submitted to the Environmental Health Section for approval – such plans must be endorsed by a registered person as contemplated in terms of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act before any work commences).
- **Example 3**: Where no external wall adjoins the area or room, and where no artificial ventilation system exists, fresh air must be supplied by means of an artificial ventilation system. An independent extract system must be installed.

NB: Building and Ventilation plans must be submitted to the Environmental Health Section for approval (examples 2 and 3) – such plans must be endorsed by a registered person as contemplated in terms of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, 1977, before any work commences. In any public assembly occupancy, the escape routes must not be compromised by the provision of a smoking area or room, and a smoking area or room capable of containing 25 or more people, will be required to have a minimum of 2 escape routes.