Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

October 2026

Are you a retailer of tobacco, vaping, nicotine or herbal smoking products?

The expanded register is now LIVE

New rules are now in force for retailers selling vaping products, nicotine products and herbal smoking products. **You must hold a valid registration to legally be able to sell these products.**

Detailed guidance on these changes is available to help you prepare.

Retailer registration

- **Retailers selling herbal smoking products and nicotine products** are now subject to the same registration requirements as retailers who sell tobacco and vaping products.
- Businesses have until 29 April 2027 to register, before offences related to registration in respect of herbal smoking products and nicotine products come into force.
- From 29 October 2026 Trading Standards can apply for **banning orders**, banning a person from carrying on a registrable business at premises specified in the order (for up to 2 years).
- These are similar to the current tobacco and vaping product banning orders but will be extended to cover nicotine product businesses and herbal smoking product businesses.

Age of Sale

- It is illegal to sell any **tobacco products, cigarette papers vaping product, nicotine products or herbal smoking products** to anyone under 18.
- Retailers must operate an age verification policy; failure can result in a fixed penalty or fine of up to £500.
- Retailers should challenge anyone if they appear under **25** (“Challenge 25”).

Acceptable ID:

- Passport
- UK or EU driving licence
- PASS card
- specific national ID cards
- defence ID
  biometric immigration document

Ready for January 2027?

From 1 January 2027 it is an offence to sell tobacco, herbal smoking products or cigarette papers to people **born on or after 1 January 2009**.

What products are included?

ALL tobacco products are included. This includes:

- cigarettes,
- hand-rolled tobacco ,
- cigars,
- cigarillos,
- pipe tobacco,
- waterpipe tobacco products (for example, shisha),
- chewing tobacco,
- heated tobacco,
- nasal tobacco (snuff),

AND also

- herbal smoking products, and
- cigarette papers

A summary of the Tobacco and Vapes Act is available at gov.uk and full details available here.

Proxy purchase

- Adults (18+) cannot buy or attempt to buy **tobacco products, cigarette papers or vaping products nicotine products or herbal smoking products** for under-18s, this is known as proxy purchasing.
- Suspected proxy sales should be refused.

Ban on Promotions

It is an offence to promote tobacco products, vaping products, nicotine products, herbal smoking products and smoking related products.

Smoking related products include cigarette papers, cigarette tubes, filters, apparatus for making cigarettes, cigarette holders, pipes for smoking

It is an offence to sell any of these products (or related items) at a substantial discount if the purpose is or effect will be to promote any of these products



Vending machines

It is illegal for anyone who has the management or control of premises in the UK to allow vending machines **that sell or dispense:**

- Tobacco products
- Vaping products
  Nicotine products
- Herbal smoking products
- Cigarette papers

This covers all machines that either **sell directly or dispense products** as part of a sale—even if payment happens elsewhere

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's)

- Scotland FPN system covers new and expanded offences for these products (including those offences which have been extended to cover nicotine products and herbal smoking products)
- Standard FPN: **£200** (reduced to **£150 if paid early**)
- Penalties **increase for repeat offences** within 2 years: £400 (then £600, etc.), each with a £50 early payment discount.

Creating an age verification policy

The Scottish Government has also published new statutory guidance for Scottish retailers of tobacco, vaping, nicotine or herbal smoking products on creating an age verification policy for their store, including what documentation to ask for and approaching customers.

A person who carries on a tobacco product, vaping product herbal smoking product or nicotine product business must have regard to this guidance.

How to register

It's free to join the Register. You can register on the website or via a paper form.

Register online
You can use ePass to join the register. You can access ePass using ScotAccount. If you do not have a ScotAccount you can create one when you're registering.

ScotAccount is the secure and simple way to access public services online.

Verifying
When you're joining the register you must add your:

- name
- contact details
- company details

You'll get an email to verify your email address after submitting these. You can then sign in and add your premises on the 'Manage Premises' page within your account.

Multiple premises
If you have multiple premises, you should add each of these after you've registered.

Register with a paper form
You can either:

- download the registration form – you can print this PDF
- ask the Scottish Government Policy Team to send you a form

No longer selling these products?

Did you know that **you need to inform Scottish Government if you are no longer selling these products** at any of the addresses listed in the Register, this includes if you have sold, transferred or closed your business.

This should be done **within 3 months** of the change occurring through the register platform and will ensure the register is kept up to date.

2

Accidentally registered twice?

The easiest way to check if you have a duplicate record on the system is to search for your record on the public register: Search the Register

If you find you do have a duplicate then you can follow the steps above to update your records.

Need a copy of your certificate?

You can **print a copy of your certificate at any time** by logging into your account and visiting the 'Manage Premises' section and clicking the 'Print Certificate' button.

All of your registered premises will be listed on the one certificate. If you update, add, or remove premises from your account, you can print an updated certificate.

Need more help?

There are is information on the register website to support you through the process.

Once logged in there is also a support function within the register itself, to directly raise a question. This can be found under the drop-down menu below your name.

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