Review of Country-Level Policies Regulating Online E-Cigarette Sales

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Background

Buying and selling goods has increasingly shifted to the online marketplace, a trend that extends to tobacco products. Little is known about how countries' policies apply to online sales of e-cigarettes.

Methods

- The Institute for Global Tobacco Control's E-cigarette Policy Scan tracks country-level policies regulating e-cigarettes.
- The scan includes 130 countries. In-country contacts provide specific policy information and documents. Policy details were collected as recently as Dec 2022.
- We reviewed responses and quantified how many countries have policies regulating online sales, and further classified their policy approaches.

Results

We identified 14 countries regulating online e-cigarette sales through one of two approaches:

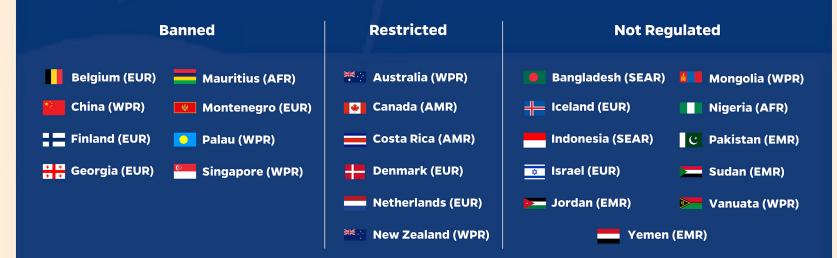
- Eight banned online e-cigarette sales
- Six had restrictions (such as those intended to prevent online exposure and sales to minors)

11 countries confirmed no regulations applying to online e-cigarette sales.



Institute for Global Tobacco Control

Countries vary in their approach to regulating e-cigarette online sales.





Access the E-cigarette Policy Scan

globaltobaccocontrol.org

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Additional Information



China

Banned in 2019



Costa Rica

Banned in instances when the purchaser's legal age cannot be verified in a clear and timely manner

Australia

A unique approach, requiring a prescription for online sales (a copy of which must be included in the package containing the online order)

- Information on countries' regulatory approach to online sales encompass all World Health Organization (WHO) regions, including Africa (two countries); Americas (two countries); Eastern Mediterranean (four countries); Europe (eight countries); South-East Asia (two countries); Western Pacific (seven countries).
- There is no explicit information on how (or whether) the remaining 105 countries regulate online ecigarette sales.

Authors

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