



## **The Age at which people can legally be sold tobacco and tobacco products has changed**

As of **1st October 2007** the law for selling tobacco changed. It became illegal for you to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18 (an increase from 16) in England and Wales. The change in law also came into effect in Scotland from the same date.

Products affected include cigarettes, cigars, tobacco for roll your own and pipes as well as rolling papers.

### **Why the law has changed**

Most addicted adult smokers began smoking as teenagers. This change in law is to help prevent children and young people from starting to smoke therefore avoiding the serious health dangers of smoking.

- A lifelong smoker has a one in two chance of their addiction killing them.
- The younger a smoker starts the more likely they are to be killed by their addiction.
- The earlier children become regular smokers and continue to smoke as adults, the greater the risk of developing lung cancer or heart disease.
- Someone who starts smoking at 15 is three times as likely to die from cancer due to smoking than someone who starts in their mid-20s.

The change in the age of sale for tobacco products is an important step in trying to reduce the number of people exposed to smoking related diseases, which is why it still carries a fine of up to £2,500 for those who don't comply.

For further information go to: [www.tobaccoagechange.co.uk](http://www.tobaccoagechange.co.uk)  
[www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/glos/](http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/glos/)