

GEORGIA

Georgia Extends Smoke-free Laws to Include Vaping

As of July 1, 2023, the Georgia Smoke-free Air Act [also applies](#) to electronic smoking devices that create aerosol or vapor and the use of any oral smoking device for the purposes of circumventing the state's prohibition on smoking.

Where Is Smoking Prohibited?

Under the Georgia Smoke-free Air Act, employers are responsible for providing a smoke-free environment for employees working in private workplaces. A private workplace means any office or work area that is not open to the public in the normal course of business except by individual invitation.

A place of employment is an enclosed area under the control of an employer that employees utilize during the course of employment. Smoking is prohibited in all enclosed areas within places of employment.

Required Signs

Employers are required to post "No Smoking" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol clearly and in every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited. Approved signs may be obtained from the Department of Health. Employers also must remove all ashtrays from any area where smoking is prohibited unless the ashtray is permanently affixed to an existing structure.

The Department of Public Health and the county boards of health will enforce compliance with the Georgia Smoke-free Air Act and may enter and inspect the premises of any establishment at any reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.

Impact on Employers

Employers should update their smoke-free policies and include restrictions on the use of electronic tobacco products as needed.

Declaring No-smoking Areas

- The owner, operator, manager or other person in control of an establishment, facility or outdoor area may declare that entire establishment, facility or outdoor area as a nonsmoking place.
- Smoking is prohibited in any place in which a conforming "No Smoking" sign is posted.

Under state law, employers are responsible for providing a smoke-free environment for employees working in private workplaces.

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