

## ***Regulation of the Tri-Town Boards of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products***

**Effective Date: January 2, 2016**

These regulations replace any and all prior Youth Access to Tobacco Products regulations.

### **A. Statement of Purpose:**

Whereas there exists conclusive evidence that tobacco smoking causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac diseases, negative birth outcomes, irritations to the eyes, nose and throat<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas among the 15.7% of students nationwide who currently smoke cigarettes and were less than 18 years old, 14.1% usually obtained them by buying them in a store (i.e. convenience store, supermarket, or discount store) or gas station<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin<sup>3</sup> and the Surgeon General found that nicotine exposure during adolescence, a critical window for brain development, may have lasting adverse consequences for brain development,<sup>4</sup> and that it is addiction to nicotine that keeps youth smoking past adolescence.<sup>5</sup>

Whereas a Federal District Court found that Phillip Morris, RJ Reynolds and other leading cigarette manufacturers “spent billions of dollars every year on their marketing activities in order to encourage young people to try and then continue purchasing their cigarette products in order to provide the replacement smokers they need to survive” and that these companies were likely to continue targeting underage smokers<sup>6</sup>;

Whereas more than 80 percent of all adult smokers begin smoking before the age of 18, more

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC) (2012), *Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from:

[http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/health\\_effects/effects\\_cig\\_smoking/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm).

<sup>2</sup> CDC (2009), *Youth Risk Behavior, Surveillance Summaries* (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 2010: 59, 11 (No. SS-55)) Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> CDC (2010), *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease*. Retrieved from: [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/sgr/2010/](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2010/).

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2014. *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta: U.S. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, p. 122. Retrieved from: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Health and Human Services. 2014. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2014 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report Atlanta: U.S. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, Executive Summary p. 13. Retrieved from: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/exec-summary.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> United States v. Phillip Morris, Inc., RJ Reynolds Tobacco Co., et al., 449 F.Supp.2d 1 (D.D.C. 2006) at Par. 3301 and Pp. 1605-07.

than 90 percent do so before leaving their teens, and more than 3.5 million middle and high school students smoke;<sup>7</sup>

Whereas the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concludes that raising the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products to 21 will reduce tobacco initiation, particularly among adolescents 15 – 17, and will improve health across the lifespan and save lives<sup>8</sup>.

Whereas sales of flavored little cigars increased by 23% between 2008 and 2010<sup>9</sup> and many non-cigarette tobacco products, such as cigars and cigarillos, can be sold in a single “dose;” enjoy a relatively low tax as compared to cigarettes; are available in fruit, candy and alcohol flavors; and are popular among youth<sup>10</sup>;

Whereas the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that current electronic cigarette use among middle and high school students tripled from 2013 to 2014;<sup>11</sup>

Whereas nicotine solutions, which are consumed via electronic or battery-operated delivery smoking devices such as electronic cigarettes, are sold in dozens of flavors that appeal to youth, such as cotton candy and bubble gum;<sup>12</sup>

Whereas the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has classified liquid nicotine in any amount as an “acutely hazardous waste” (310 CMR 30.136);

Whereas in a lab analysis conducted by the FDA, electronic cigarette cartridges that were labeled as containing no nicotine actually had low levels of nicotine present in all cartridges tested, except for one<sup>13</sup>;

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<sup>7</sup> SAMHSA, Calculated based on data in 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health and U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). *The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2014.

<sup>8</sup> IOM (Institute of Medicine) 2015. *Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products*. Washington DC: The National Academies Press, 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Delnevo, C., Flavored Little Cigars memo, September 21, 2011, from Neilson market scanner data.

<sup>10</sup> CDC (2009), *Youth Risk Behavior, Surveillance Summaries* (MMWR 2010: 59, 12, note 5). Retrieved from: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss5905.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. 2015. “Tobacco Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2011–2014,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) 64(14): 381–385.

<sup>12</sup> Cameron JM, Howell DN, White JR, et al. 2013. “Variable and Potentially Fatal Amounts of Nicotine in E-cigarette Nicotine Solutions.” *Tobacco Control*. [Electronic publication ahead of print], <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2013/02/12/tobaccocontrol-2012-050604.full>; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2012. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta: U.S. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, p. 549, [www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/full-report.pdf](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/full-report.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Food and Drug Administration, *Summary of Results: Laboratory Analysis of Electronic Cigarettes Conducted by FDA*, available at: <http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/publichealthfocus/ucm173146.htm>.

Whereas according to the CDC's youth risk behavior surveillance system, the percentage of high school students in Massachusetts who reported the use of cigars within the past 30 days is 10.8% in 2013;<sup>14</sup>

Whereas data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey indicate that more than two-fifths of U.S. middle and high school smokers report using flavored little cigars or flavored cigarettes;<sup>15</sup>

Whereas in Massachusetts, youth use of cigars and smokeless tobacco (12.3%) is higher than the rate of current cigarette use (10.7%) for 2013 and has remained elevated since 2009<sup>16</sup>;

Whereas research shows that increased cigar prices significantly decreased the probability of male adolescent cigar use and a 10% increase in cigar prices would reduce use by 3.4%<sup>17</sup>;

Whereas the sale of tobacco products is incompatible with the mission of health care institutions because these products are detrimental to the public health and their presence in health care institutions undermine efforts to educate patients on the safe and effective use of medication, including cessation medication;

Whereas educational institutions sell tobacco products to a younger population, who is particularly at risk for becoming smokers and such sale of tobacco products is incompatible with the mission of educational institutions that educate a younger population about social, environmental and health risks and harms;

Whereas the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has held that “. . . [t]he right to engage in business must yield to the paramount right of government to protect the public health by any rational means”<sup>18</sup>.

Now, therefore it is the intention of the Tri-Town Boards of Health to regulate the sale of tobacco products.

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<sup>14</sup> CDC (2013) *Youth Risk Behavior, Surveillance Summaries* (MMWR 2014: 63 (No SS-04)). Retrieved from: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

<sup>15</sup> King BA, Tynan MA, Dube SR, et al. 2013. “Flavored-Little-Cigar and Flavored-Cigarette Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students.” *Journal of Adolescent Health*. [Article in press], [www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X%2813%2900415-1/abstract](http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X%2813%2900415-1/abstract).

<sup>16</sup> Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Data Brief, Youth Tobacco Use in Massachusetts: Survey Results from 1993 to 2013.

<sup>17</sup> Ringel, J., Wasserman, J., & Andreyeva, T. (2005) *Effects of Public Policy on Adolescents' Cigar Use: Evidence from the National Youth Tobacco Survey*. *American Journal of Public Health*, 95(6), 995-998, doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2003.030411 and cited in *Cigar, Cigarillo and Little Cigar Use among Canadian Youth: Are We Underestimating the Magnitude of this Problem?*, J. Prim. P. 2011, Aug: 32(3-4):161-70. Retrieved from: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21809109](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21809109).

<sup>18</sup> *Druzik et al v. Board of Health of Haverhill*, 324 Mass.129 (1949).

## **B. Authority:**

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Tri-Town Boards of Health by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31 that "Boards of Health may make reasonable health regulations".

## **C. Definitions:**

For the purpose of this regulation, the following words shall have the following meanings:

**Blunt Wrap:** Any tobacco product manufactured or packaged as a wrap or as a hollow tube made wholly tube made wholly or in part from tobacco that is designed or intended to be filled by the consumer with loose tobacco or other fillers.

**Business Agent:** An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.

**Cigar:** Any roll of tobacco that is wrapped in leaf tobacco or in any substance containing tobacco with or without a tip or mouthpiece not otherwise defined as a cigarette under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 64C, Section 1, Paragraph 1.

**Commercial Roll-Your-Own (RYO) machine:** A mechanical device, by whatever manufacturer made and by whatever name known, that is designed to roll and wrap tobacco into products. Home-use RYO machines are not Commercial Roll-Your-Own machines.

**Component part:** Any element of a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, the tobacco, filter and paper, but not including any constituent.

**Constituent:** Any ingredient, substance, chemical or compound, other than tobacco, water or reconstituted tobacco sheet, that is added by the manufacturer to a tobacco product during the processing, manufacturing or packaging of the tobacco product. Such term shall include a smoke constituent.

**Coupon:** Any card, paper, note, form, statement, ticket or other issue distributed for commercial or promotional purposes to be later surrendered by the bearer so as to receive an article, service or accommodation without charge or at a discount price.

**Distinguishable:** Perceivable by either the sense of smell or taste.

**Educational Institution:** Any public or private college, school, professional school, scientific or technical institution, university or other institution furnishing a program of higher education.

**Employee:** Any individual who performs services for an employer.

**Employer:** Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, trust or other organized group of individuals that uses the services of one (1) or more employees.

**Health Care Institution:** An individual, partnership, association, corporation or trust or any person or group of persons that provides health care services and employs health care providers licensed, or subject to licensing, by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health under M.G.L. c. 112 or a retail establishment that provides pharmaceutical goods and services and is subject to the provisions of 247 CMR 6.00. Health care institutions include, but are not limited to, hospitals, clinics, health centers, pharmacies, drug stores, doctor offices and dentist offices.

**Liquid Nicotine Container:** A bottle or other vessel which contains nicotine in liquid or gel form, whether or not combined with another substance or substances, for use in a tobacco product, as defined herein. The term does not include a container containing nicotine in a cartridge that is sold, marketed, or intended for use in a tobacco product, as defined herein, if the cartridge is prefilled and sealed by the manufacturer and not intended to be open by the consumer or retailer.

**Listed or non-discounted price:** The higher of the price listed for a tobacco product on its package or the price listed on any related shelving, posting, advertising or display at the place where the tobacco product is sold or offered for sale plus all applicable taxes if such taxes are not included in the state price, and before the application of any discounts or coupons.

**Minimum Legal Sales Age (MLSA):** The age an individual must be before that individual can be sold a tobacco product in the municipality.

**Non-Residential Roll-Your-Own (RYO) Machine:** A mechanical device made available for use (including to an individual who produces cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, or roll-your-own tobacco solely for the individual's own personal consumption or use) that is capable of making cigarettes, cigars or other tobacco products. RYO machines located in private homes used for solely personal consumption are not Non-Residential RYO machines.

**Permit Holder:** Any person engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products who applies for and receives a tobacco product sales permit or any person who is required to apply for a Tobacco Product Sales Permit pursuant to these regulations, or his or her business agent.

**Person:** Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind, including but not limited to, an owner, operator, manager, proprietor or person in charge of any establishment, business or retail store.

**Retail Tobacco Store:** An establishment that is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale, but not for resale, tobacco products and tobacco paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products is merely incidental, and in which the entry of persons under the minimum legal sales age is prohibited at all times, and maintains a valid

permit for the retail sale of tobacco products as required to be issued by the Tri-Town Boards of Health.

**Self-Service Display:** Any display from which customers may select a tobacco product, as defined herein, without assistance from an employee or store personnel.

**Schools:** Public or private elementary or secondary schools.

**Smoke Constituent:** Any chemical or chemical compound in mainstream or sidestream tobacco smoke that either transfers from any component of the tobacco product to the smoke or that is formed by the combustion or heating of tobacco, additives or other component of the tobacco product.

**Smoking Bar:** An establishment that primarily is engaged in the retail sale of tobacco products for consumption by customers on the premises and is required by Mass. General Law Ch. 270, §22 to maintain a valid permit to operate a smoking bar issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. “Smoking bar” shall include, but not be limited to, those establishments that are commonly known as “cigar bars” and “hookah bars”.

**Tobacco Product:** Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, or electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, electronic hookah, or other similar products, that rely on vaporization or aerosolization. “Tobacco product” includes any component or part of a tobacco product. “Tobacco product” does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration either as a tobacco use cessation product or for other medical purposes and which is being marketed and sold or prescribed solely for the approved purpose.

**Tobacco Sales Certification Training:** A certification training program, approved by the Tri-Town Board of Health or other boards of health that require the training which must be successfully completed by all tobacco product sales clerks engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to the consumer. For the purposes of this section, the content of the tobacco product sales certification training program must be approved by the Board of Health. However, an equivalent training program approved by the State Department of Public Health will also meet the requirements of this provision.

**Tobacco Sales Clerk:** An individual, employer, employee, retail store manager, the owner or operator of any establishment engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to consumers who can produce documentation that he/she maintains a valid tobacco product sales certification.

**Vending Machine:** Any automated or mechanical self-service device, which upon insertion of money, tokens or any other form of payment, dispenses or makes cigarettes, any other tobacco products

#### **D. Tobacco Sales to Persons Under the Minimum Legal Sales Age Prohibited:**

1. Effective January 2, 2016, No person shall sell tobacco products or permit tobacco products, as defined herein, to be sold to a person under the minimum legal sales age of twenty one (21) years of age.

#### **2. Required Signage:**

a. In conformance with and in addition to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 270, Section 7, a copy of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 6, shall be posted conspicuously by the owner or other person in charge thereof in the shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail. The notice shall be provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and made available from the Tri-Town Boards of Health. The notice shall be at least 48 square inches and shall be posted conspicuously by the permit holder in the retail establishment or other place in such a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing at or approaching the cash register. The notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of less than four (4) feet or greater than nine (9) feet from the floor. The owner or other person in charge of a shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail shall conspicuously post any additional signs required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

b. The owner or other person in charge of a shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail shall conspicuously post signage provided by the Tri-Town Boards of Health that discloses current referral information about smoking cessation.

3. Identification: Each person selling or distributing tobacco products shall verify, for each transaction, the age of the purchaser by means of government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that the purchaser is of the minimum legal age. See section D1 of this regulation for the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products.

4. All retail sales of tobacco products must be face-to-face between the seller and the buyer.

#### **E. Tobacco Product Sales Permit:**

1. No person shall sell or otherwise distribute tobacco products, as defined herein, within the Tri-Town Boards of Health District without first obtaining a Tobacco Product Sales Permit issued annually by the Tri-Town Boards of Health. Only owners of establishments with a permanent, non-mobile location in the Tri-Town Health District are eligible to apply for a permit and sell tobacco products, as defined herein, at the specified location in the Tri-Town Boards of Health District.

2. As part of the Tobacco Product Sales Permit application process, the applicant will be provided with the Tri-Town Boards of Health regulation. Each applicant is required to sign a statement declaring that the applicant has read said regulation and that the applicant is responsible for instructing any and all employees who will be responsible for tobacco product sales regarding federal, state and local laws regarding the sale of tobacco and this regulation.
3. Each applicant who sells tobacco products is required to provide proof of a current Tobacco Retailer License issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, when required by state law, before a Tobacco Product Sales Permit can be issued.
4. The fee for a Tobacco Product Sales Permit shall be determined by the Tri-Town Boards of Health annually.
5. A separate permit is required for each retail establishment selling tobacco products, as defined herein.
6. Each Tobacco Product Sales Permit shall be displayed at the retail establishment in a conspicuous place.
7. A Tobacco Product Sales Permit is non-transferable. A new owner of an establishment that sells tobacco products, as defined herein, must apply for a new permit. No new permit will be issued unless and until all outstanding penalties incurred by the previous permit holder are satisfied in full.
8. Issuance of a Tobacco Product Sales Permit shall be conditioned on an applicant's consent to unannounced, periodic inspections of his/her retail establishment to ensure compliance with this regulation.
9. A Tobacco Product Sales Permit will not be renewed if the permit holder has failed to pay all fines issued and the time period to appeal the fines has expired and/or the permit holder has not satisfied any outstanding permit suspensions.
10. A Tobacco Product Sales Permit will not be renewed if the permit holder has sold a tobacco product to a person under the MLSA (§D.1) three times within the previous permit year and the time period to appeal has expired. The violator may request a hearing in accordance with §P.4.

#### **11. Maximum Number of Tobacco Product Sales Permits:**

At any given time, there shall be no more than fourteen (14) Tobacco Product Sales Permits issued in Lee; no more than eight (8) Tobacco Sales Permits issued in Lenox, and no more than three (3) Tobacco Products Sales permits issued in Stockbridge except in these circumstances: (a) No permit renewal will be denied based on the requirements of this subsection except any permit holder who has failed to renew his or her permit within thirty (30) days of expiration will not have the permit renewed.; (b) Applicants who purchase a business that holds a current Tobacco Product Sales Permit at the time of the sale of said business may apply, within sixty



(60) days of such sale, for the permit held by the Seller if the Buyer intends to sell tobacco products; and (c) Any permit not renewed either because a retailer no longer sells tobacco products, or because a retailer closes the retail business, shall be returned to the Tri-Town Board of Health. No new Tobacco Product Sales Permit shall be issued by the Tri-Town Boards of Health as long as the total number of permits in the Tri-Town Boards of Health District exceeds the total allowable number of Tobacco Product Sales Permits allowable per this paragraph.

#### **F. Minimum Tobacco Sales Permit Setbacks:**

A Tobacco Product Sales Permit shall not be issued to any new applicant for a retail location within 500 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary school as measured by a straight line from the nearest point of the property line of the school to the nearest point of the property line of the site of the applicant's business premises. Applicants who purchase a business that holds a current Tobacco Product Sales Permit at the time of the sale of said business may apply, within sixty (60) days of such sale, for the permit held by the Seller if the Buyer intends to sell tobacco products.

#### **G. Cigar Sales Regulated:**

1. No person shall sell or distribute or cause to be sold or distributed a single cigar.
2. No person shall sell or distribute or cause to be sold or distributed any original package of two or more cigars, unless such package is priced for retail sale at \$5.00 or more.
3. This Section shall not apply to:
  - a. The sale or distribution of any single cigar having a retail price of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) or more.
  - b. A person or entity engaged in the business of selling or distributing cigars for commercial purposes to another person or entity engaged in the business of selling or distributing cigars for commercial purposes with the intent to sell or distribute outside the boundaries of the Tri-Town Boards of Health.
4. The Tri-Town Board of Health may adjust from time to time the amounts specified in this Section to reflect changes in the applicable Consumer Price Index by amendment of this regulation.

#### **H. Free Distribution and Coupon Redemption:**

No person shall:

1. Distribute or cause to be distributed, any free samples of tobacco products, as defined herein.

2. Accept or redeem, offer to accept or redeem, or cause or hire any person to accept or redeem or offer to accept or redeem any coupon that provides any tobacco product, as defined herein, without charge or for less than the listed or non-discounted price; or
3. Sell a tobacco product, as defined herein, to consumers through any multi-pack discounts (e.g., "buy-two-get-one-free") or otherwise provide or distribute to consumers any tobacco product, as defined herein, without charge or for less than the listed or non-discounted price in exchange for the purchase of any other tobacco product.

Sections 2 and 3 shall not apply to products, such as cigarettes, for which there is a state law prohibiting them from being sold as loss leaders and for which a minimum retail price is required by state law.

#### **I. Out of Package Sales:**

A. The sale or distribution of tobacco products, as defined herein, in any form other than an original factory-wrapped package is prohibited, including the repackaging or dispensing of any tobacco product, as defined herein, for retail sale. No person may sell or cause to be sold or distribute or cause to be distributed any cigarette package that contains fewer than twenty (20) cigarettes, including single cigarettes.

B. A retailer of Liquid Nicotine Containers must comply with the provisions of 310 CMR 30.000, and must provide the Tri-Town Boards of Health with a written plan for disposal of said product, including disposal plans for any breakage, spillage or expiration of the product.

#### **J. Self Service Displays:**

All self-service displays of tobacco products or nicotine delivery products are prohibited. All humidors including, but not limited to, walk-in humidors must be locked.

#### **K. Tobacco Vending Machines:**

All tobacco and nicotine delivery product vending machines are prohibited.

#### **L. Non-Residential Roll-Your-Own Machines:**

All Non-Residential Roll-Your-Own machines are prohibited.

#### **M. Prohibition of the Sale of Tobacco Products by Health Care Institutions:**

No health care institution located in the Tri-Town Boards of Health District shall sell or cause to be sold tobacco products. No retail establishment that operates or has a health care institution within it, such as a pharmacy or drug store, shall sell or cause to be sold tobacco products.

#### **N. Prohibition of the Sale of Tobacco Products by Educational Institutions:**

No educational institution located in the Tri-Town Boards of Health District shall sell or cause to be sold tobacco products. This includes all educational institutions as well as any retail establishments that operate on the property of an educational institution.

**O. Certification:**

1. No person shall sell any tobacco product without first successfully completing an approved tobacco sales certification training and obtains confirmation of certification.
2. New employees have thirty (30) consecutive days to successfully complete an approved tobacco product sales certification training. Employers must provide documentation confirming new hire if requested by Board of Health.

**P. Violations pertaining to the Tobacco Sales Clerk:**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Tobacco Sales Clerk to ensure compliance with all sections of this regulation pertaining to his or her distribution of tobacco products. The violator shall receive:

- a. In the case of a first violation:

Tobacco Sales Clerk, a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and tobacco products sales certification shall be suspended for seven (7) consecutive business days, must provide proof that he/she has signed up for the next available tobacco retailer training within seven (7) consecutive business days before selling tobacco products. Completion of training required within thirty (30) consecutive business days unless otherwise written consent from Tri-Town Boards of Health to extend the time period.

- b. In the case of a second violation within 24 months of the date of the current violation:

Tobacco Sales Clerk, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and tobacco product sales certification shall be suspended for thirty (30) consecutive business days, must provide proof that he/she has signed up for the next available tobacco retailer training within thirty (30) consecutive business days before selling tobacco products. Completion of training required within thirty (30) consecutive business days unless otherwise written consent from Tri-Town Boards of Health to extend the time period.

- c. In the case of a third violation within a 24 month period:

Tobacco Sales Clerk, a fine of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) and tobacco product sales certification shall be suspended for three hundred and sixty five (365) consecutive days.

2. Refusal to cooperate pursuant to this regulation shall result in the suspension of the tobacco product sales certification for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

3. In addition to the monetary fines set above, any Tobacco product Sales Clerk who engages in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to a consumer while his or her certification is

suspended shall be subject to the suspension of all board of health issued permits for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

4. The Tri-Town Boards of Health shall provide notice of the intent to suspend tobacco product sales certification, which notice shall contain the reasons therefore. A hearing may be requested in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of letter. The Tobacco Product Sales Clerk or its business agent shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board of Health's decision and the reasons therefore in writing. The Tri-Town Boards of Health after a hearing, may suspend the tobacco product sales certification.

5. Any Tobacco Sales Clerk who does not pay the assessed fine within twenty-one days from fine issuance may be subject to criminal proceedings.

**Q. Violations pertaining to the permit holder and/or his or her business agent:**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder and/or his or her business agent to ensure compliance with all sections of this regulation pertaining to his or her distribution of tobacco products. The violator shall receive:

a. In the case of a first violation:

Permit holder and/or his or her business agent, a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

b. In the case of a second violation within 24 months of the date of the current violation:

Permit holder and/or his or her business agent, a fine of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) and the tobacco products sales permit shall be suspended for seven (7) consecutive business days.

c. In the case of third violation within a 24 month period:

Permit holder and/or his or her business agent, a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and the tobacco product sales permit shall be suspended for fourteen (14) consecutive business days.

d. In the case of fourth violation within a 24 month period:

Permit holder and/or his or her business agent, a fine of six hundred dollars (\$600.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

e. In the case of fifth violation within a 24 month period:

Permit holder and/or his or her business agent, a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) and the tobacco product sales permit shall be suspended for three hundred and sixty five (365) consecutive business days.

2. Refusal to cooperate pursuant to this regulation shall result in the suspension of the tobacco product sales permit for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

3. Any permit holder who allows a sales clerk to sell or distribute tobacco products directly to a consumer without first obtaining a tobacco products sales certification shall result in a fine of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars.

4. In addition to the monetary fines set above, any permit holder who engages in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to a consumer while his or her permit is suspended shall be subject to the suspension of all board of health issued permits for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

5. The Tri-Town Boards of Health shall provide notice of the intent to suspend a tobacco product permit holder, which notice shall contain the reasons therefore. A hearing may be requested in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of letter. The permit holder or its business agent shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board of Health's decision and the reasons therefore in writing. The Tri-Town Boards of Health after a hearing may suspend the tobacco products sales permit. All tobacco products shall be removed from the retail establishment upon suspension of the tobacco product sales permit. Failure to remove all tobacco products shall constitute a separate violation of this regulation.

6. Any permit holder who does not pay the assessed fine within twenty-one (21) days from fine issuance may be subject to criminal proceedings.

**R. Non-Criminal Disposition:**

Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21 D or by filing a criminal complaint at the appropriate venue. Each day any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

**S. Enforcement:**

Enforcement of this regulation shall be by the Tri-Town Board of Health or its designated agent(s).

Any citizen who desires to register a complaint pursuant to the regulation may do so by contacting the Tri-Town Boards of Health or its designated agent(s) and the Board shall investigate.

**T. Severability:**

If any provision of these regulations is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

**U. Effective Date:** All previous regulations shall be in effect until this regulation goes into effect on January 2, 2016.

Lee Board of Health

Lenox Board of Health

Stockbridge Board of Health

Date Regulation approved: October 19, 2015

Town Clerk Attested Date:

Date of Published Notice of Public Hearing: September 16, 21, 2015

Date of Summary Regulation Published in Public Newspaper:

Date Submitted to MA DEP Central Registry: