

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
CIGARETTE CONTAINERS (LABELLING) ORDINANCE 1972

In April 1972 the former Government decided, subject to uniformity of practice with the States, to introduce legislation in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory to require health warning labels on cigarette containers.

Substantial agreement on the need for and scope of uniform legislation was reached at a conference of Health Ministers held in Sydney on 2 May 1972. The Australian Capital Territory Cigarette Containers (Labelling) Ordinance 1972 gives effect to the decisions reached at that Conference.

The Ordinance makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale cigarettes in containers other than those labelled with the prescribed notice "WARNING - SMOKING IS A HEALTH HAZARD". The warning must appear in two places on the cigarette containers, whether the container be a single packet, package or box or whether it be a number of packets, packages or boxes enclosed in one container. The exact locations of the warning notice are prescribed both in respect of conventional and unusually shaped containers.

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The warning is to be printed in bold face capitals of a size not less than one sixteenth of an inch and in a colour which makes a distinct contrast with the colour of the background on which it appears. The warning must be printed on the same surface as the brand name and not on a transparent outer wrapping.

It is to be an offence to sell or expose for sale a container of cigarettes on which there are words which convey or tend to convey an indication that smoking is not a hazard to health.

It is intended that the Cigarette Containers (Labelling) Ordinance 1972 will come into effect on 1 January 1973.

Original Initialed
L. B.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CIGARETTE CONTAINERS (LABELLING) ORDINANCE 1972

The former Government decided that subject to uniformity of practice with the States, legislation be brought into operation in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory to require health warnings on cigarette containers.

Substantial agreement on the need for and scope of uniform legislation was reached at a conference of Health Ministers held in Sydney on 2 May 1972. The Australian Capital Territory Cigarette Containers (Labelling) Ordinance 1972 gives effect to the decisions reached at that conference.

The Ordinance makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale cigarettes in containers other than those labelled with the prescribed notice "WARNING - SMOKING IS A HEALTH HAZARD". The warning must appear in two places on the cigarette containers, whether the container be a single packet, package or box or whether it be a number of packets, packages or boxes enclosed in one container. The exact locations of the warning notice are prescribed both in respect of conventional and unusually shaped containers.

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It is intended that the Cigarette Containers (Labelling) Ordinance 1972 will come into effect on 1 January 1973.

Authority: The Minister for Health
Vide Section 12 of the
Seat of Government (Administration)
Act 1910-1972