SMOKING PROHIBITION FOR RESTAURANTS & OTHER EATING ESTABLISHMENTS
(San Francisco Health Code Sections 1009.22(a)(13), 1009.22(i))

San Francisco Health Code Article 19F (SFHC 19F) defines “Restaurants” as every restaurant, coffee shop, cafeteria, café, luncheonette, sandwich stand, soda fountain, or other eating establishment serving food to the general public, including outdoor and sidewalk dining areas. This term also includes separate rooms within restaurants, either accessible from the restaurant or an outside door, and whether or not the room is used as a meeting room or banquet room or food or beverages are served in the room. This term also includes the areas adjacent to and serving the meeting or banquet room. (SFHC 19F Section 1009.21(r))

“Smoking” or “to smoke” means and includes inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted smoking equipment for tobacco or any plant or other weed. (SFHC 19F Section 1009.21(s))

Smoking of products that are not tobacco, plant or other weed, such as steaming stones, is not prohibited.

SMOKING IS NOT ALLOWED

- Inside the restaurant or eating establishment whether or not food or beverages are served
- Outdoor or sidewalk dining area whether or not food or beverages are served

SMOKING IS ALLOWED

- At the curb of the nearest street, sidewalk, or alley
- If there is no curb, at least 15 feet away from the entrance, exit, window, and vents to the restaurant

SFHC 19F REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Restaurant and eating establishment owners or managers are required to comply with the following:

- Post a clear and prominent sign at each entrance to the premises no higher than 8 feet and no lower than 5 feet; and within 10 feet of the door or most appropriate place for visibility from outside:

  The building entrance sign must include all of the following in letters no less than one half inch in height, the text should read:

  "Smoking only 1) at the curb, or 2) if no curb, at least 15 ft. from exits, entrances, operable windows, and vents"

  The international "No Smoking" symbol, consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a circle, with a diameter of at least three inches, with a bar across it.

  A statement at the bottom of the sign that reads "SF Health Code Article 19F" in font no less than 1/8 inch in height.

- Post one (1) general “No Smoking” sign inside the restaurant visible to patrons and staff.
- Post a general “No Smoking” sign in the outdoor or sidewalk area, if applicable.
- May post “No Smoking” signs on each outdoor or sidewalk table, if applicable.
- Remove ashtrays or ash receptacles from (1) inside the restaurant and (2) the outdoor or sidewalk dining area.
- Request patron or staff to refrain from smoking in prohibited area when observed.

Building Entry Way Sign Verification

Environmental Health staff will verify that building entry way signs are posted during the compliance inspection.

Complaints

If patrons are observed smoking inside the restaurant or at outdoor or sidewalk dining area, a complaint may be filed by contacting the following:

- 311 (inside San Francisco) or (415) 701-2311 (outside San Francisco area code); or
- Environmental Health at EnvHealth.DPH@sfdph.org

All other complaints should be directed to the business owner or manager.