SAN FRANCISCO’S FLAVORED TOBACCO SALES BAN IS NOW IN EFFECT!

What is the Flavored Tobacco Sales Ban?
The ban prohibits Retail Tobacco Permit Holders from selling any nicotine or tobacco product, including but not limited to smokeless/chew, cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, vape liquid and hookah tobacco, that is manufactured to have an aroma and/or flavor, such as fruit, sweet, candy, alcohol, mint, spice or menthol.

When is the ban effective and how can I prepare now?
The ban took effect on July 20, 2018. Discontinue ordering and restocking flavored tobacco products now to prevent losing your investment once the rules and regulations are ready to implement.

Will the City help retailers implement the new law?
Yes. Education and outreach efforts will begin in September 2018. Compliance checks will begin in October 2018, where a notice of correction will be issued if flavored tobacco products are observed.

When will the City enforce the new law?
The Rules and Regulations are aimed for completion in January 2019 and enforcement will commence. Avoid permit suspensions of up to 365 days by discontinuing sales of flavored tobacco products now.

How can I stay informed?
Throughout this process, stay informed by visiting our website, https://www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/Tobacco/flavoredtobacco.asp.
- We will also invite retailers to meet with City staff to discuss approaches to phase out existing products, technical assistance needs, and improve the retailers’ customer experience.
- Read the mailings from the City and pay attention to the website for posting of FAQs and the proposed Rules and Regulations for public comment.
- You are encouraged to ask questions and submit suggestions to San Francisco 311 at (415) 701-2311 or https://sf311.org.

Examples of tobacco products now banned from sale in San Francisco:

“Menthol” has a distinguishable taste and aroma.

“Sour Apple” is a fruit flavor; “Mint” has a distinguishable taste and aroma.

“Cherry,” “Nectar,” “Melon,” “Apple,” “Raspberry,” “Strawberry,” “Berry” and “Fruit Medley” are fruit flavors; “Crème Brulée” and “Vanilla” are candy flavors; “Mint” and “Menthol” have distinguishable tastes and aromas; “Hawaiian Pod” has an image indicating it contains a flavor other than tobacco.

“Strawberry,” “White Grape,” “Grape,” “Peach” and “Blueberry” are fruit flavors.

“Berry” is a fruit flavor; mint has a distinguishable taste and aroma.

“Lemonade” is a fruit flavored beverage; “Raspberry,” “Blueberry,” “Orange,” “Grape,” “Cherry” and “Strawberry” are fruit flavors.

Sold individually and in packs; those that are flavored are banned.

This fact sheet is available in:
- Arabic
- 中文 (Chinese)
- Español (Spanish)
- Tagalog
- Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)