

Notice to all Cigar and Cigarillo Traders in Ireland

Under Article 15 and 16 of Directive 2014/40/EU and Implementing Decisions 2018/574 and 2018/576, adopted under that Directive, all unit packets of tobacco products placed on the EU market are required to carry both a unique identifier and a tamper-proof security feature.

This notice is particularly addressed to manufacturers and importers of cigars and cigarillos which will be required to carry both a unique identifier and a security feature from 20 May 2024.

The requirements of Article 15 and 16 of Directive 2014/40/EU apply to the 'unit packet' of tobacco product. For the purposes of the Directive, 'unit packet' means the smallest individual packaging of a tobacco or related product that is placed on the market.

For instance, where an individual cigar/cigarillo is to be sold to consumers from an open box of cigars/cigarillos, it is the individual cigar/cigarillo which will need to comply with all labelling and packaging requirements of Directive 2014/40/EU, including the obligation to be marked with a unique identifier and security feature from 20 May 2024.

The obligation to hold a unique identifier and a security feature does not affect the right of traders to determine the size of a 'unit packet' in respect of cigars/cigarillos placed on the Irish market. Once the size of a 'unit packet' has been determined by the trader, all such 'unit packet(s)' must comply with the obligations of Article 15 and 16 of Directive 2014/40/EU.

Dated

18 April 2024