

# **Single-Use Vape Ban**

## **Guidance and Information**

From 1 June 2025, the sale and supply of single-use vapes will be banned across the UK. The new regulations address the environmental and public health challenges posed by disposable vapes. Businesses in Croydon are encouraged to review their stock and prepare for these changes to ensure compliance with the law.

From 1 June 2025, it will be illegal for businesses to sell or supply, offer to sell or supply, or have in their possession for sale or supply all single-use or 'disposable' vapes. This applies to:

- sales online and in shops
- all vapes whether or not they contain nicotine

### **What Does The Ban Mean?**

Under The Environmental Protection (Single-Use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024, a single-use vape is defined as a device that:

- Is not designed to be refilled,
- Is not designed to be recharged, or
- Meets both criteria above.

This ban applies to both in-store and online sales. It covers all products classified as single-use vapes. This is explained in more detail below.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [DEFRA] has published a comprehensive guide for distributors, suppliers, and retailers to help businesses understand their responsibilities under the ban. The guide includes:

- The definition of single-use vapes.
- Practical steps to transition to compliant products.
- Enforcement measures and potential penalties for non-compliance.

You can access the guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/single-use-vapes-ban>

### **Definition of a single-use vape**

A single-use or disposable vape is a product that's neither designed nor intended to be re-used. For a vape to be considered reuseable, it must be both:

- rechargeable
- Refillable

A vape is not considered reuseable, if it is:

- rechargeable but not refillable

- refillable but not rechargeable

A vape is not considered rechargeable if it has a:

- battery you cannot recharge
- coil you cannot buy separately and easily replace

The coil is the part of the vape that's powered by the battery to produce heat, vaporising the e-liquid. With a reusable vape, you may be able to directly remove and replace the coil, or remove and replace the pod or cartridge in which the coil is encased.

A vape is not considered refillable if:

- it has a single-use container, such as a pre-filled pod, that you cannot buy separately and replace
- you cannot refill the container

The container may be in the form of:

- a capsule
- a cartridge
- a pod
- a tank
- anything designed to hold the vaping liquid and be used within the vape

## **Definition of a reusable vape**

To be reusable, a vape must:

- have a battery you can recharge
- be refillable with vape liquid

If the vape has a coil, it must be one that can be replaced by an average user – this includes any part of the product that heats or generates a vapour when interacting with the product's ingredients.

The vape may be refilled by either:

- filling up the tank or cartridge with e-liquid
- inserting new pre-filled pods

Refills (pods or vape liquid refill bottles) should be separately available for users to buy.

If the vape has a coil, it may be replaced by either:

- removing and replacing it
- removing and replacing a pod or tank that contains it

The coil (whether part of a replacement pod or tank, or not) should be separately available to buy.

By law, you must assist the enforcing authority and provide any information or evidence they ask for during an inspection. You'll need to be able to demonstrate that an average user can separately buy individual refill items (including pods or e-liquid refill bottles) for the vaping items you stock. An easy way of doing this is by providing these items in your shop or online store.

## Steps Businesses Need to Take Now

- **Review your stock** and identify products that will no longer be sold legally.
- **Stop buying new stock of single-use vapes**; sell through all existing stock.
- Only buy vapes from **reputable sources** that follow the new regulations.
- Keep receipts as proof of purchase and to ensure **traceability**.
- **Train your employees** about the new requirements and compliance expectations and have evidence that you have completed this training.
- **Arrange for the environmentally responsible disposal** of any unsold single-use vapes.

From 1 June 2025, it is an offence to have disposable vaping products in your possession for sale. Any leftover disposable vaping products must be:

- Stored in stock rooms, away from the shopfloor, and
- **Separated from other goods, securely wrapped, and clearly labelled**, they are waiting to be collected for disposal and are not for sale.

## Enforcement and Penalties

Businesses who stock non-compliant products may face:

- **Seizure** of non-compliant products.
- **A financial penalty**
- **Criminal prosecution**
- If you continue to supply, offer to supply or have in your possession to supply single-use vapes, you may be charged with an unlimited fine, a prison sentence of up to 2 years, or both. You may also receive an additional cost recovery notice, where you must pay the costs incurred by Trading Standards while investigating your offence. This includes investigative, administrative and legal costs.

## Other restrictions on vaping products

Aside from the restrictions on vaping devices outlined in this guidance with regard to the single-use ban, reusable vapes will still be subject to wider regulatory restrictions. Vapes on the market must follow relevant regulations, such as:

- the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals Regulations (2015)
- the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 (TRPR)
- waste regulations that apply to electrical equipment and batteries – this includes the Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008 and related legislation

**Note – you will be committing offences under the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 if you stock vapes that have not been notified to the MHRA. All vapes have to be notified to be considered legal to sell.** Check any product you wish to stock and sell on the website below. From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025, if a product is not displayed on this register, then it should not be sold.

<https://cms.mhra.gov.uk/ecig-new>

Please also see: **The Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 -**  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/507/contents/made>

## **Recycling vapes**

- **Review your stock** and identify products that will no longer be sold legally.
- Vapes are electrical items, whether they are single-use or reuseable, which means they are covered by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. **If you sell vapes (described as being a ‘distributor’ in the regulations), you must offer a ‘take back’ service where you accept vapes and vape parts (such as used pods, coils or batteries) that customers return for recycling.**
- This includes any single-use vapes returned by customers after the sale and supply ban has come into force on 1 June 2025.
- **The Office for Product Safety and Standards may take action against you if you do not have a way to safely recycle vapes and vape parts.**
- Unsafe storage of vapes or improper disposal is a fire risk. Vapes should be disposed of in vape bin only and regularly collected for recycling.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulations-waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment>

**\*\*\*\*For a detailed guide to Vaping Products please refer to the Business Companion Guide on the link below\*\*\*\***

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/en/quick-guides/underage-sales/tobacco-and-vapes>