lbhf H&F shisha lounges rules, l

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AI Overview

Shisha lounges in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (LBHF) are subject to strict regulations, primarily enforced by LBHF Trading Standards and Environmental Health teams. They must comply with smoke-free legislation, age-restricted sales laws, and licensing requirements. London Borough of Hammersmith & Ful… +2

Here is a comprehensive overview of the rules, laws, and standards for shisha lounges in LBHF.

1. The Law: Smoke-Free Legislation (Indoor/Outdoor)

- **The Ban:** Smoking shisha (water pipes) is prohibited in "substantially enclosed" public spaces or workplaces.
- **50% Rule:** Shisha can only be smoked in the open air or in structures where at least 50% of the walls are permanently open. Any opening that can be closed (doors, windows, shutters) counts as closed.
- **Indoor Smoking:** It is illegal to smoke shisha inside a fully enclosed room.
- **Enforcement:** LBHF will prosecute, issue fines, or close down illegal indoor shisha operations. London Borough of Waltham Forest +1

2. Age Verification (Strictly 18+)

- **Legal Age:** It is an offence to sell shisha containing tobacco or nicotine-inhaling products to anyone under 18.
- **Challenge 25:** LBHF recommends a "Challenge 25" policy, requiring ID from anyone who looks under 25.
- **Acceptable ID:** Only passports, driving licenses, or PASS-accredited cards (e.g., Citizen Card) should be accepted. Photographs of ID on phones are generally not accepted.
- **Age Check Routine:** Operators must check the age of everyone in a group, not just the person ordering, as pipes are often shared.
- **Refusals Book:** It is best practice to maintain a "refusals book" to log instances where underage sales were attempted. London Borough of Hammersmith & Ful… +4

3. Sales and Product Regulation

- **Illegal Tobacco:** Shisha tobacco must be legally imported and duty-paid. If it is sold for under £85 per kg, it is likely illegal.
- **Health Warnings:** Shisha products must carry the mandatory 30% health warning on packaging.
- **Tobacco Advertising:** Advertising is strictly limited; posters in windows or on building exteriors are prohibited.
- **Nicotine Strength:** While herbal shisha (nicotine-free) is often used, any nicotine-based product is regulated. For e-shisha/vaping, nicotine strength is capped at 20mg/ml. GOV.UK +4

4. Licensing and Operation

- **Premises Licence:** A licence from LBHF is required for late-night refreshments (hot food/drink after 11 PM), alcohol, and, in some cases, entertainment.
- **Planning Permission:** If changing the use of a building or erecting a permanent smoking shelter, planning permission and building regulation approval are likely required.
- **Fire Safety:** A written fire risk assessment must be in place, and all furnishings must be fire-resistant.
- **CCTV:** Often required to ensure no under-18s are accessing the area. London Borough of Hammersmith & Ful… +2

5. Specific LBHF Requirements

- **Sound Management:** If using an outside area, it must be designed to avoid noise nuisance to neighbors.
- **Glassware:** Alcohol is generally not permitted in the smoking area.
- **Staff Training:** Staff must be trained in age-restricted sales and know the legal requirements to avoid personal liability. London Borough of Hammersmith & Ful… +3

Penalties

Failure to comply with these rules can result in:

- Substantial fines.
- Imprisonment.
- Suspension or revocation of the premises licence. Blacklist Lounge +2