

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued a final rule requiring all public housing authorities to establish a policy disallowing the use of prohibited tobacco products in all restricted areas. This policy is expected to improve indoor air quality; benefit the health of public housing residents, visitors, and staff; reduce the risk of catastrophic fires; and lower overall maintenance costs.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited inside all indoor areas of public housing, including but not limited to living units, indoor areas, laundry rooms, community facilities, day care centers, electrical closets, storage units, administrative office buildings, and in all outdoor areas within 25 feet of the housing and administrative office buildings.

Tobacco products is defined as all “prohibited tobacco products.” HUD defines all prohibited tobacco products as all tobacco products that involve the ignition and burning of tobacco leaves such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and water pipes (also known as hookahs).

This policy does not supersede state or local smoking bans.