

“ The City of Heritage ”



ULUNDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

SMOKING POLICY

1. Background

The Minister of Health has, in terms of Section 2 of the Tobacco Products Control Act, Act 83 of 1993 declared that smoking in certain areas in public places would be permissible but in all other areas in public places it will be forbidden.

All employees have the right to work in a healthy environment. Medical evidence clearly shows that the smoking of tobacco is harmful to health. Smoke from cigarettes, cigars and pipes are also an irritant to many non-smokers and can worsen allergic conditions.

Research has shown that non-smokers with chronic heart and lung diseases can experience severe distress when exposed to sufficient concentrations of second-hand smoke. The exposure of non-smokers to second-hand smoke is referred to as passive smoking, involuntary smoking or second-hand smoking and entails the inhalation of other peoples' tobacco smoke. Furthermore, recent medical studies have revealed that long-term exposure to involuntary smoking may increase non-smokers' risks of developing severe lung diseases.

2. Objective

- To protect the health of employees who do not smoke and to encourage and assist employees who smoke to give up smoking and where possible, give practical help to do so, if they so request.
- To accommodate the needs of both smokers and non-smokers, based on mutual tolerance, respect and common courtesy.
- To promote health awareness.

3. Policy

In terms of the Act and the Regulations published under Notice R 975 of 29 September 2000, the Council may set aside a designated smoking area(s) in the municipal buildings provided that:

- such area does not exceed 25% of the total floor area of these buildings;
- The designated smoking area is separated from the rest of the buildings by a solid partition with an entrance door on which the sign "Smoking Area" is displayed;
- The ventilation of the designated smoking area is such that air from the smoking area is directly exhausted and not re-circulated to any other area within the public place;

- The message: "SMOKING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH AND TO THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN, PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN AND NON-SMOKERS. FOR HELP TO QUIT PHONE 011 – 720 3145" is displayed at the entrance of each office building area; and
- Notices and signs indicating where smoking is permitted and is not permitted must be displayed permanently and at places where smoking is not permitted a further notice should be displayed that read: "ANY PERSON WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THIS NOTICE SHALL BE PROSECUTED AND MAY BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF R500 00."

It is the responsibility of the Council, the Municipal Manager and all Managers to ensure that no person smokes anywhere other than in the designated smoking area(s).

The Council must ensure that:

- Employees who do not want to be exposed to tobacco smoke in the workplace are protected from it, and that
- Employees may object to tobacco smoke in the workplace without retaliation of any kind.

The Council has in terms of the above designated the following areas as "Smoking Areas":

- All open air areas OUTSIDE the office building where practical.
- No smoking is allowed in municipal vehicles
- No smoking is allowed in municipal toilets

4. Responsibilities

Managers and supervisors are responsible for communicating the policy to all employees within their areas of responsibility. It is also expected that they should be familiar with the policy. Furthermore, each manager and supervisor is responsible for ensuring that appropriate steps are taken to apply and maintain the policy in their departments/sections.