

## **Smokefree England – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007**

### **General**

Law requiring smokefree environments in all workplaces, including vehicles used for public transport comes into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007. The legislation ensures that:

- All workers are protected from the risks to health from tobacco smoke and are guaranteed their right to work in a smokefree environment.
- All members of the public will have access to public transport that is smoke-free, regardless of when or where they use it in England.

(Regulations have not yet been cleared by parliament and therefore the guidance is subject to final parliamentary clearance).

### **The law in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles**

- The legislation covers both Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles, requiring them all to be smokefree at all times.
- Legislation requires all vehicles used for public transport to be smokefree at all times. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers can not smoke in their vehicle, even if there is no passenger inside. This is because tobacco smoke is absorbed into soft furnishings and stays around for weeks after a cigarette is stubbed out, releasing particles hazardous to health.
- Vehicles should display signs, including the international red 'no smoking' symbol. Signage will be available for free from the Department of Health. If a vehicle is already displaying 'no smoking' signs, they will not need to be replaced.
- View the following link to read the 'draft' smokefree (Vehicle Operators and Penalty Notices) Regulations;  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ClosedConsultations/ClosedConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4139521&chk=nsxuNP](http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ClosedConsultations/ClosedConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4139521&chk=nsxuNP)