



Approved March 27, 1998
Revised July 22, 2005
Revised June 8, 2009
Reviewed December 10, 2013
Revised June 30, 2014
Revised August 4, 2016
Revised December 10, 2019
Next Scheduled Review: December 10, 2024

Rule Summary

Texas A&M University-Commerce (A&M-Commerce) has a vital interest in maintaining a healthy and safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Tobacco usage poses a significant risk to the health of both smokers and nonsmokers. In addition, side-stream and second-hand smoke can be a health hazard in the workplace. A growing body of evidence is demonstrating that e-cigarettes and vapor type devices also present a hazard to both the user and physical property. A&M-Commerce will become a tobacco and e-cigarette (“vape”) free campus on January 1, 2020.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 The University prohibits the use of all forms of tobacco, including vaping products on University property, including athletic and farm facilities/fields. The University prohibits any advertising, sale, or free sampling of tobacco and vaping products on University property.
- 1.2 This rule applies to all employees, students, university affiliates, contractors and visitors and is applicable twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 It is the responsibility of all members of the A&M-Commerce community, including visitors, to observe these requirements. This rule relies on the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of tobacco and vape users for its success. Those violating this rule should be reminded of this rule and asked to comply.
- 2.2 Department heads or others with purview over facilities shall ensure that the rule is communicated to everyone who occupies space in the facility.

2.3 Violations of this rule may result in corrective action as prescribed by system policies and regulations and A&M-Commerce rules and procedures. Visitors refusing to comply may be asked to leave campus.

3 EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

Tobacco use may be permitted under the following circumstance:

3.1 Sponsored research involving tobacco or tobacco products, provided the university employee obtains the prior written approval of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and a waiver is requested and granted in accordance with sponsored research requirements, if any. Smoke, like any other laboratory air contaminant, shall be controlled.

3.2 By artists or actors who participate in university authorized performances that require smoking as part of the artistic production.

3.3 Educational or clinical purposes with prior written approval of the dean or director responsible for the facility or the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and in the case of smoking, the Office of Campus Operations and Safety.

4 SMOKING AND TOBACCO CESSATION PROGRAMS

A&M-Commerce is committed to supporting all students and employees who wish to stop using tobacco products. Information on tobacco and smoking are provided through links at <https://www.tamus.edu/business/benefits-administration/wellness/tobacco-cessation-products-and-services/> and through the Student Counseling Service at <https://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/counselingCenter/default.aspx>

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Texas Penal Code § 48.01. [*Smoking Tobacco*](#)

Texas Labor Code § 411.103. [*Duty of Employer to Provide Safe Workplace*](#)

Texas Health and Safety Code, § 161.252 *Possession, Purchase, Consumption or Receipt of Cigarettes, E-Cigarettes, or Tobacco Products by Minors Prohibited*

Texas Administrative Code § 34.303, [*Adopted Standards*](#) (Adopts by rule applicable chapters of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code 101 (2012 Edition))

Texas Administrative Code, § 703.20 [*Certification of Tobacco-Free Policy for Grant Recipients*](#)

System Policy [*34.05, Smoking*](#)

[Tobacco Free Campus FAQs](#)

Definitions

Smoking means the use or carrying of a lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, tobacco, or smoking substance shall have the meaning specified in System Policy 34.05 *Smoking*.

Tobacco means all forms of tobacco products including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes “e-cigarettes”, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and any non-FDA approved nicotine delivery device.

University Property means property located in the State of Texas that is owned, operated, leased, occupied, or under the administrative control of the President of Texas A&M University-Commerce. For purposes of this rule, this includes but is not limited to all grounds, agricultural land, buildings and structures, sidewalks, parking lots, walkways, and all vehicles owned, leased, or rented by A&M-Commerce.

Vaping means to inhale vapor through the mouth from a usually battery-operated electronic device (such as an e-cigarette) that heats up and vaporizes a liquid or solid.

Contact Office

Department of Campus Operations and Safety
903.468.3091