

THE SINGLE-USE VAPE BAN

The **Environmental Protection (Single-Use Vapes) (Scotland) Regulations 2024** took effect on **1 June 2025**, banning Single-Use Vape products across Scotland. This measure aims to tackle the environmental impact of Single-Use Vapes and promote more sustainable vaping options.

This guidance outlines the key aspects of the ban that vape retailers need to know to ensure they do not sell or display non-compliant products.

All suppliers must comply with the new regulations to support the transition to reusable vaping products.

Further information is available on the Highland Council website -

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20000/trading_standards/764/nicotine_vapour_products

If you have questions or require further advice, contact Highland Council Trading Standards by email: trading_standards@highland.gov.uk

The Definition of a Single-Use Vape



What is a Single-Use Vape?

The new regulations define a single-use vape as a product that **is neither designed nor intended to be reused**. This includes:

- Devices that are **refillable but not rechargeable**,
- Devices that are **rechargeable but not refillable**,
- Devices with **non-replaceable coils**.

The ban applies to **all vaping devices**, including zero-nicotine, CBD, and health or vitamin devices.



Compliance

How can retailers assess if a vape device is compliant?

Compliance involves a two-part assessment:

1. Functionality Check

The device must be:

- **Rechargeable** – Does it contain a battery that can be recharged multiple times? The battery must be rechargeable, rather than just replaceable.
- **Refillable** – Can the user refill the device with vape liquid or replace the liquid via compatible pods or containers?
- **Replaceable Coil** – Can the user replace the coil? The product will comply if the coil is integrated into replaceable tanks, pods, or containers, provided these are separately available.

If the answer to any of these questions is '**NO**', the product **does not comply**.

2. Availability of Replacement Parts

To be compliant, it is not sufficient for a vape to have a rechargeable battery, be refillable, and have a replaceable coil. Replacement parts (pods, coils, refill containers) must be available to be purchased separately and be accessible to consumers. If they are not stocked in your store, you must be confident that customers can get them from other outlets, such as vape shops, supermarkets, or online.

If you don't stock them:

- Ask suppliers to confirm parts are obtainable separately and are widely available.
- Check the availability online or in other stores.

Best Practice:

- Keep some replacement parts in-store if possible.
- Do occasional online checks to confirm availability.

Record details of any checks you make—it may help with a due diligence defence.

Record Keeping

All distributors in the supply chain, including retailers, must keep accurate records of all vape products to show traceability by retaining accurate purchase (and supply if not retail) records – name and addresses, product details including batch numbers.

Keep details of the checks you make to confirm that replacement pods, containers, and coils are available separately. This evidence may support a due diligence defence. Trading Standards officers may inspect your business, so clear, organised records will help demonstrate compliance.



The Penalties for Non-Compliance

Retailers found in possession of Single-Use vapes may have those products removed by Trading Standards. They may also face a penalty of £200 for a first offence. Subsequent breaches can result in unlimited fines or prison sentences of up to two years.

Transition to Reusable Vapes



What does this mean for retailers?

Checklist:

- Remove all Single-Use vapes from sale immediately.
- Securely package and label them for disposal.
- Store them away from the shop floor in a back room.
- Only buy vapes from reputable sources that follow the new regulations
- Train you employees about the requirements and compliance expectations
- Arrange for disposal via a registered vape recycling service.

Recycling Bins



Even though Single-Use vapes have been banned, the legal duty to provide vape recycling remains. If your store sells vape products, you must **offer a designated recycling bin** for used devices and pods.

For more information on vape recycling:

[Watch this video from the OPSS:](#)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=er2KKydIi2k



Find the official DEFRA Guidance on Single-Use Vapes HERE:

www.gov.uk/guidance/single-use-vapes-ban



Highland Council has prepared this guide to assist vape retailers in understanding and applying the Environmental Protection (Single-Use Vapes) (Scotland) Regulations 2024. It does not replace formal legal advice or official guidance.