REGULATING ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES & SIMILAR DEVICES

Electronic cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (e-cigarettes) include a range of devices designed to deliver nicotine or other substances to users in the form of an aerosol.²

Over the last few years, these products have changed dramatically in their appearance and enjoyed a boom in popularity, thanks in part to an enormous increase in marketing efforts.³ Many public health organizations and policymakers are concerned about the safety and public health impact of these products due,

The Tobacco Control Legal Consortium has created this series of legal technical assistance guides to serve as a starting point for organizations interested in implementing certain tobacco control measures. We encourage you to consult with local legal counsel before attempting to implement any of these measures.¹ For more details about these policy considerations, please contact the Consortium.
in part, to the lack of manufacturing standards and ingredient disclosure requirements. The federal government only recently began to regulate these products. In 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a final deeming regulation that will regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products, but the regulation, while addressing some key policy issues, still leaves significant regulatory gaps. In addition, the regulation will be phased in over the next few years, so even if it is not delayed as a result of litigation or other reasons, many requirements will not take effect until August 2019. In addition, since the regulation does not include any advertising restrictions, e-cigarettes are likely to continue to be broadly promoted and advertised on television, radio and the Internet.

In light of the gaps in federal regulation and in the FDA’s regulatory authority, a growing number of state and local governments have taken steps to regulate the sale, price, and use of e-cigarettes to protect the public’s health, reduce youth initiation to nicotine and tobacco products, and promote enforcement of tobacco-free laws that include e-cigarettes. This guide provides a few options, examples and pointers for communities and policy makers to consider when drafting or implementing laws or policies that regulate e-cigarettes. Given the rapidity with which the e-cigarette market is growing, this publication is updated often.

**Background**

**Product Description.** E-cigarettes typically consist of a battery-powered heating element, a cartridge that contains liquid nicotine and other chemicals, and an atomizer that, when heated, converts the contents of the cartridge into an aerosol that the user inhales. The two primary categories of e-cigarettes are closed systems, in which prefilled cartridges are used, and open systems, which allow the user to add solution manually to a refillable tank. In 2004, when e-cigarettes first entered the market in China, they were shaped like cigarettes, cigars or pipes and the liquid or gel heated in the cartridge contained nicotine. Over the last decade, however, as the e-cigarette market has expanded, product designs and ingredients have also evolved, making it difficult to arrive at any standard definition. Today, e-cigarettes come in hundreds of brands, including rechargeable and disposable models, and a variety of shapes mimicking common household products, such as flash drives, pens, and lipstick. They can be used to inhale a variety of products from nicotine to marijuana. Most e-cigarette cartridges on the market contain tobacco-derived nicotine, humectants to produce the aerosol (for example, propylene glycol or glycerol), and flavorings. Because e-cigarettes are not yet subject to manufacturing standards, the quality and content of ingredients varies among brands, as does the level and concentration of nicotine in e-liquid. In fact, some e-liquid is marketed as nicotine-free and, as a result, may not be covered by laws that only regulate tobacco products.

**Growing Market.** E-cigarettes were first sold primarily over the Internet and in shopping mall kiosks, but are also now widely available in brick-and-mortar establishments across the U.S., such as convenience stores, gas stations, retail tobacco stores and, increasingly, in standalone e-cigarette
shops. Sales of e-cigarettes in the U.S. have risen dramatically from approximately $1.7 billion in 2013,\(^8\) to predicted sales of at least $2.5 billion in 2015.\(^9\) Some Wall Street analysts speculate that sales of e-cigarettes might even overtake those of conventional cigarettes within the not-too-distant future.\(^10\) As an indication of the tobacco industry’s interest in this rapidly growing market, several of the largest tobacco companies, such as Lorillard, R.J. Reynolds and Altria, have either acquired e-cigarette companies or are marketing their own electronic cigarettes.\(^11\) Significantly, as e-cigarette sales have risen, product costs have dropped, making e-cigarettes increasingly affordable.\(^12\) The relatively low cost of e-cigarettes is one factor that makes these products appealing to youth, who tend to be particularly price-sensitive.\(^13\)

**Health Risks.** The Surgeon General, along with many leading public health organizations generally agree on the need for further scientific study to assess unproven safety claims about e-cigarettes and to determine the overall public health impact of e-cigarette use.\(^14\) Potentially harmful constituents have been documented in some e-cigarette cartridges, including diethylene glycol, genotoxins, animal carcinogens,\(^15\) and diacetyl, a butter flavoring known to cause serious lung damage to factory workers who manufacture microwave popcorn.\(^16\) The nico-
 nicotine in e-cigarettes, as in all tobacco products, is highly addictive, can be toxic in high doses, and has immediate bio-chemical effects on the brain and body.\textsuperscript{17} The Surgeon General cautions that nicotine may harm developing fetuses, and may negatively impact adolescent brain development.\textsuperscript{18} Given unregulated production processes, the type and concentration of product ingredients, including nicotine, varies among e-cigarette brands. For example, e-cigarette cartridges typically contain between 6 and 24 mg of nicotine per milliliter, but in some brands, the nicotine level can be much higher.\textsuperscript{19} Moreover, testing has shown that the nicotine content labeling on these products is not always accurate.\textsuperscript{20} In addition, much is still unknown about the health effects of e-cigarette aerosol on both the user and those in close proximity who are exposed to the secondhand aerosol.\textsuperscript{21} Large-scale epidemiologic research is needed to determine whether these products help smokers quit, whether they promote dual use with other tobacco products that perpetuates addiction to nicotine or whether they promote experimentation and initiation by non-tobacco users, especially kids.\textsuperscript{22}

Because of the many questions about the safety and public health impact of e-cigarettes, public health professionals are concerned about their growing popularity, particularly among youth.\textsuperscript{23} E-cigarettes and refill cartridges are advertised on radio and TV, and in magazines.\textsuperscript{24} E-cigarettes are also widely available online, where safeguards against youth access can be breached more easily than in face-to-face purchases.\textsuperscript{25} Moreover, e-solution comes in thousands of flavors, including kid-friendly fruit and candy flavors such as bubblegum, gummi bear, and watermelon\textsuperscript{26} — flavors that federal law prohibits in conventional cigarettes.\textsuperscript{27} Evidence of the growing popularity of e-cigarettes among youth is supported by findings from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which shows that e-cigarette use among middle and high school students experienced a nearly tenfold increase from 2011 to 2015, and that over 3 million middle and high school students said they had used e-cigarettes within the past 30 days.\textsuperscript{28} E-cigarettes are now the most widely used tobacco product among both middle school and high school students.\textsuperscript{29} As a measure of concern about the lack of manufacturing requirements and sales and marketing restrictions on e-cigarettes, forty-one Attorneys General sent the FDA a letter in September 2013, urging the agency to regulate e-cigarettes to safeguard minors from nicotine addiction and other potential health effects of e-cigarettes.\textsuperscript{30}

**Federal Regulation.** On May 5, 2016, the FDA released its final deeming regulation which treats e-cigarettes containing nicotine as tobacco products for certain purposes. The provisions of the deeming regulation will be phased in over the next several years. For example, while the minimum legal sale age of 18 and the prohibition on free samples took effect in August 2016, other provisions, such as the required disclosure of harmful or potentially harmful constituents, will not be implemented until August 2019.\textsuperscript{31} The deeming regulation provides a broad regulatory structure for e-cigarettes but it does not include many of the policy areas identified in this docu-
ment. Some policy options that the FDA has the authority to regulate, such as requiring that products be kept behind the counter or restricting the sale of flavored products, were not included in the final regulation. Other regulatory options, such as including e-cigarettes in smoke-free laws or levying taxes, are beyond the authority of the FDA, and would need to be enacted at the state and local levels. In addition, many other health-promoting policies could be implemented at the state and local levels much sooner than federal regulations will be in place and can be used to fill in some of the gaps not addressed by federal regulation at this time. For more information on this topic, see the Consortium’s The Deeming Regulation: FDA Authority Over E-Cigarettes, Cigars, and Other Tobacco Products.

**Policy Options**

Public health organizations support regulating e-cigarettes for several reasons, including reducing youth initiation to nicotine and tobacco products, protecting the health of all users, preserving clean air, and promoting the enforcement of smoke-free (and tobacco-free) laws. Several policy options can advance these public health goals.

- **Regulating Sale.** In 2016, as discussed above, the FDA issued a final deeming regulation that will regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products. The deeming regulation does not prohibit state and local governments from enacting additional regulations related to the sale of e-cigarettes. For example, a government could consider prohibiting the sale of all such products anywhere within its jurisdiction, prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to those under the age of 21, requiring these products to be kept behind the counter in stores, requiring e-cigarette stores and “vaping lounges” to be licensed as tobacco retailers, or allowing these products to be sold only in places where minors are not permitted to enter. Also, a state or local government could consider prohibiting the sale of certain products, such as flavored e-cigarette liquid. Finally, a state or local government can treat all e-cigarettes the same — whether or not they contain nicotine — which would ensure regulatory consistency and could help to avoid potential enforcement problems.

- **Regulating Marketing.** State and local governments have an interest in protecting the public from false or misleading claims about any product. Prohibiting e-cigarette manufacturers and retailers from making unsubstanciated marketing claims about the safety and benefits of these products is in the best interest of public health. Every state, and some local, governments have laws in place to control misleading product claims, and these laws may be enforceable against certain e-cigarette marketing efforts. For instance, state consumer protection and unfair trade practices statutes typically prohibit false or misleading advertising about products sold within the state.

In conjunction with laws prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to minors or to all consumers, state and local governments may also want to consider regulatory options designed to
limit the targeted marketing of e-cigarettes to minors. E-cigarette advertising often mirrors the cigarette advertisements of a generation ago, using celebrity endorsements that emphasize sex appeal, rugged individualism, and overall coolness. E-cigarettes are also promoted as less harmful, more convenient, and more cost-effective alternatives to conventional tobacco products — approaches that are both factually questionable and specifically designed to appeal to kids. Due to the complicated legal concerns related to restrictions on commercial speech, governments interested in pursuing these policies should work with legal counsel to draft regulations that will address the key issues and withstand legal scrutiny.

- **Regulating Price.** Yet another important policy option that state and local governments might consider is regulating the price of e-cigarettes. One viable pricing regulation is to prohibit the distribution and sampling of e-cigarettes and related products for free or at a nominal cost. Although the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act) restricts tobacco manufacturers from distributing free samples of “cigarettes, smokeless tobacco or other tobacco products,” and the deeming regulation extends this restriction to include e-cigarettes, this prohibition may only pertain to those products that contain nicotine. Determining which products contain nicotine — and which do not — may result in significant
enforcement challenges, given the rapid expansion of products and retailers. Prohibiting free and nominal cost sampling of all e-liquids may make enforcement less problematic. State and local governments could also regulate the price of e-cigarettes by prohibiting the use of coupons, rebates, and other discounting practices.\textsuperscript{35} Finally, all states and those localities with taxing powers could consider imposing a tax on e-cigarettes and related products to help the state or locality offset health expenses and costs related to tobacco control programs or enforcement, collect revenue, and keep the prices of these products high in order to reduce consumption, particularly among youth. For more information about taxing e-cigarettes, see our publication \textit{E-Cigarette Taxation: Frequently Asked Questions}.

- **Regulating Use.** Because e-cigarettes emit an aerosol rather than secondhand smoke, many existing smoke-free (and some tobacco-free) laws or policies, as currently written, do not restrict the use of these products in indoor public places or in places of employment. Thus, e-cigarettes are often used in places where the use of combustible tobacco products is prohibited, undermining state and local efforts to promote and protect clean air. Proponents of e-cigarettes claim these products are safer to use than conventional tobacco products and do not expose bystanders to the risk of secondhand smoke.\textsuperscript{36} Recent scientific research has shown some negative health effects related to secondhand exposure to e-cigarette aerosol, which has caused a growing number of state and local governments to prohibit their use in various public places and places of employment — often under existing or new smoke-free laws.\textsuperscript{37} In addition, in 2014, the American Society for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineering published a risk assessment of e-cigarettes and concluded that “e-cigarettes emit harmful chemicals into the air and need to be regulated in the same manner as tobacco smoking.”\textsuperscript{38} While the primary goal of policies that restrict the use of e-cigarettes in certain areas is to minimize the unknown health risks to the user or to bystanders, these laws also serve another important legislative goal: to support enforcement of existing smoke-free laws. Users of e-cigarettes often appear to be smoking combustible cigarettes, which causes confusion for those in charge of enforcing a smoke-free law. Omitting e-cigarettes from the restrictions imposed by smoke-free laws could lead smokers of conventional tobacco products to assume that smoking is permitted. Moreover, many public health professionals are concerned that permitting e-cigarettes to be used in traditionally smoke-free areas renormalizes “smoking-like behavior,” which may result in higher youth initiation rates and a slower decline in adult cessation rates.\textsuperscript{39}

- **Regulating Packaging.** The ingestion of e-cigarette liquid by children has become a significant health risk. Data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers show that there were over 3,000 calls to poison control centers around the United States as a result
of exposure to e-cigarette liquids in 2015, and 70 percent of these calls were related to youth exposure. While the federal government recently adopted legislation to require that e-liquids containing nicotine be sold in child-resistant packages to minimize the risk of accidental poisoning, local governments might also consider adopting regulations that mirror the federal law or that extend the law to include non-nicotine products.

- **Regulating Disposal.** Improper disposal of e-cigarette cartridges, batteries, and related devices could result in nicotine exposure to children, adults, and animals, the contamination of soil and water, and other adverse impacts on the environment. States and communities might want to consider adopting policies that require environmentally responsible disposal of e-cigarette waste.

### Policy Elements

Regardless of the type of policy effort pursued to regulate e-cigarettes, all strong policies share a few common elements, such as:

- **Clear definitions and concise language:** To avoid confusion about what constitutes an e-cigarette, definitions should explicitly state what they cover, yet be broad enough to anticipate future product innovations. This eliminates ambiguity that might arise when new products are introduced to the market that are functionally similar to existing products, but may not be included under a narrow definition. For example, when e-cigarettes were first introduced they resembled cigarettes, but now they are manufactured in many different forms. Also, definitions that only cover products that contain tobac-
co-derived nicotine can be limiting and can make enforcement difficult. Many cartridges are interchangeable, and e-cigarettes can be used to inhale not only tobacco-derived nicotine, but also synthetic nicotine and other substances. A broad definition should cover all of these variations. If a jurisdiction chooses to limit its definitions to include only those products that contain nicotine derived from tobacco, it should consider adding language that presumes that all e-cigarette products contain nicotine, absent proof to the contrary.

When drafting definitions, be sure to consider the range of products intended to be captured, the specific activity to be addressed, the existing laws within the particular jurisdiction, and the political environment. Definitions should be easy for the average person to understand and tailored to each situation. For example, when writing a sales restriction law, it might be helpful to include language that exempts products approved by the FDA for sale as tobacco cessation aids and that are being marketed and sold for that purpose. However, a similar exemption for a clean indoor air act could be problematic because it could create confusion leading to enforcement difficulties.

Drafting Tips: In most circumstances, existing definitions of “tobacco products” in tobacco control laws should be broadened to include e-cigarettes and similar products. It may also be helpful to include all component parts and accessories, regardless of whether they are sold together or separately, as part of the definition of e-cigarettes. Doing so may help prevent any questions from arising about which products are covered by the law. To ensure that drafting inconsistencies or other problems do not occur, consult with a lawyer familiar with the laws of your jurisdiction, or contact a Consortium attorney.

- Robust enforcement options: Enforcing restrictions on the sale, marketing, pricing, and use of e-cigarettes can be challenging unless clear procedures are established, including a reasonable penalty and appeals process. Effective enforcement of these policies often includes coordination among different enforcement agencies and consistent procedures throughout a community. States could also use existing consumer protection laws to ensure that the public is protected from false claims made about these products.

- Well-planned implementation process: A process should be established for publicizing the policy and educating the community, as well as for receiving, tracking, and following up on complaints. It is also important to set a realistic date that the policy will take effect and to communicate that date.

Policy Challenges

One of the most controversial issues affecting the regulation of electronic cigarettes has been the debate over their status as either drug delivery devices (e.g., smoking cessation) or tobacco products. The regulatory status of e-cigarettes was at the heart of litigation in 2010 between the FDA and e-cigarette manufacturers, most notably in *Sottera Inc. v. Food & Drug Administra-
Generally, the court in *Sottera* held that the FDA could not regulate e-cigarettes as drug delivery devices because they were not marketed for therapeutic purposes such as smoking cessation. However, the court held that the FDA could regulate them under its tobacco control authority, which led to the promulgation of the deeming regulation that is discussed earlier. Under the Tobacco Control Act, the FDA has the authority to regulate “any product made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption.” The brands of e-cigarettes being marketed most widely today generally contain nicotine extracted from tobacco. It is important to note, however, that any e-cigarettes that are neither made nor derived from tobacco may not be subject to the FDA’s regulatory authority.

As with any tobacco control policies, state and local measures regulating the sale, marketing, or price of e-cigarettes may be challenged in the courts by the tobacco industry and its allies, who may argue that those restrictions are preempted by other laws or that they violate specific constitutional provisions. For example, in 2013, the City of Providence, Rhode Island, successfully fought off a legal challenge to ordinances that prohibit the sale of flavored non-cigarette tobacco products in most locations and prohibit price discounting of tobacco products. The industry argued that these ordinances were preempted by federal and state law and violated the First Amendment, but the court did not agree. New policies regulating the use of e-cigarettes could also be challenged in court simply as a means to dissuade other communities from adopting similar provisions. Public health professionals and policymakers should also be on the lookout for legislation proposed by the industry that purports to regulate e-cigarettes and related devices. While the proposed laws may appear to have a public health focus, they typically lack the necessary substantive policy provisions and often attempt to limit local authority to regulate e-cigarettes through preemption provisions. In most cases, industry-sponsored legislation attempts to define e-cigarettes as non-tobacco products which, in turn, exempts them from other tobacco product regulations, such as sales restrictions and tax laws.

**Select Legislation and Policies**

In recent years, many state and local governments have wrestled with determining the most effective way to regulate e-cigarettes and the evolving market of related devices. Below are a few examples of tobacco control policies that include provisions regulating the sale, marketing, price discounting, or use of e-cigarettes. Local and state governments might also want to consider other legislative avenues or regulatory options.

Before using any language from the following policies, take care to ensure the provision in question is practical and legal in your jurisdiction, including exploring whether the original jurisdiction faced any issues that could affect implementation in your jurisdiction. Please note that the Tobacco Control Legal Consortium does not endorse or recommend any of the following policy approaches. These select examples are included simply to illustrate how various jurisdictions have approached the regulation of these products.
### State Laws Regulating E-Cigarettes

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<tr>
<th>State &amp; Policy Name</th>
<th>Text of Policy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Reduces and eliminates the illegal purchase and consumption of tobacco by minors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement Act Cal. Bus. &amp; Prof. Code § 22959.5</td>
<td><strong>Definitions:</strong> “Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. “Smoking” includes the use of an electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking.</td>
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<td>(d) (1) “Tobacco product” means any of the following:</td>
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<td>(A) A product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, or snuff.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(B) An electronic device that delivers nicotine or other vaporized liquids to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe, or hookah.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(C) Any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, whether or not sold separately.</td>
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<td>(2) “Tobacco product” does not include a product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where the product is marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>(a) (1) (A) (i) Every person, firm, or corporation that knowingly or under circumstances in which it has knowledge, or should otherwise have grounds for knowledge, sells, gives, or in any way furnishes to another person who is under 21 years of age any tobacco, cigarette, or cigarette papers, or blunt wraps, or any other preparation of tobacco, or any other instrument or paraphernalia that is designed for the smoking or ingestion of tobacco, tobacco products, or any controlled substance, is subject to either a criminal action for a misdemeanor or to a civil action brought by a city attorney, a county counsel, or a district attorney, punishable by a fine of two hundred dollars ($200) for the first offense, five hundred dollars ($500) for the second offense, and one thousand dollars ($1,000) for the third offense.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Prohibits the sale of tobacco products in any form, including electronic smoking devices to any person under twenty-one years of age, effective January 1st, 2016. Imposes fines for violations.</td>
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“The sale of tobacco products or electronic smoking devices to persons under twenty-one is prohibited…” 709-908 (2). “It shall be unlawful for a person under twenty-one years of age to purchase any tobacco product or electronic smoking device” 709-908 (3). “Any person who violates subsection (1) or (2), or both, shall be fined $500 for the first offense. Any subsequent offenses shall subject the person to a fine not less than $500 nor more than $2,000. Any person under twenty-one years of age who violates subsection (3) shall be fined $10 for the first offense. Any subsequent offense shall subject the violator to a fine of $50…” 709-908 (4).

Definitions: “Electronic smoking device” means any electronic product that can be used to aerosolize and deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, or electronic pipe, and any cartridge or other component of the device or related product.”

“Tobacco product” means any product made or derived from tobacco that contains nicotine or other substances and is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by other means. “Tobacco product” includes but is not limited to a cigarette, cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus, or an electronic smoking device.

“Tobacco product” does not include drugs, devices, or combination products approved for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.” 709-908 (5).
# State Laws Regulating E-Cigarettes

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<tr>
<td><strong>Minnesota</strong></td>
<td>Regulates sale of e-cigarettes and imposes criminal penalties for the sale of nicotine or lobelia delivery products, including e-cigarettes, to minors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobacco Modernization and Compliance Act of 2010, Minn. Stat. § 609.6855</td>
<td>“Whoever sells to a person under the age of 18 years a product containing or delivering nicotine or lobelia intended for human consumption, or any part of such a product, that is not tobacco as defined by section 609.685, is guilty of a misdemeanor for the first violation. Whoever violates this subdivision a subsequent time within five years of a previous conviction under this subdivision is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.”</td>
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<td><strong>Definition:</strong> “Electronic delivery device” means any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of vapor from the product. Electronic delivery device includes any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery device does not include any product that has been approved or certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco-cessation product, as a tobacco-dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is marketed and sold for such an approved purpose.</td>
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<td><strong>Comment:</strong> Section 609.685 contains an expansive definition of tobacco including “any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product...” The law exempts FDA-approved tobacco cessation products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Raises Minnesota’s excise tax on cigarettes and most other tobacco products to 95 percent of the “wholesale sales price.”</td>
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<td>Minn. Stat. § 297F.05 subd. 3</td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> The Minnesota Department of Revenue interprets the tobacco products tax as covering electronic cigarettes. Revenue Notice #12-10.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Jersey</strong></td>
<td>Prohibits the smoking of tobacco products and the use of electronic smoking devices in all enclosed indoor places of public access and workplaces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act, P. L. 2009, Chap. 182</td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> “Electronic smoking device means an electronic device that can be used to deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, or pipe.”</td>
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<td><strong>New York</strong></td>
<td>“No person, firm or corporation shall sell or offer for sale any electronic liquid, as defined in paragraph (e) of subdivision one of section thirteen hundred ninety-nine-cc of the public health law, unless the electronic liquid is sold or offered for sale in a child resistant bottle which is designed to prevent accidental exposure of children to electronic liquids.”</td>
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| North Dakota        | Prohibits smoking, including use of e-cigarettes, in all enclosed areas of public places and places of employment, including within twenty feet of entrances, exits, operable windows, air intakes, and ventilation systems of enclosed areas in which smoking is prohibited.  
**Definition:** “Smoking means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, in any manner or in any form. Smoking also includes the use of an e-cigarette which creates a vapor, in any manner or any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this Act. ... E-cigarette means any electronic oral device, such as one composed of a heating element and battery or electronic circuit, or both, which provides a vapor of nicotine or any other substances, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, and e-pipe or under any other product, name, or descriptor.” |

| Utah                | Regulates sale, gift, or distribution of e-cigarettes by manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer.  
**Definition:** “Electronic cigarette” means:  
(i) an electronic device used to deliver or capable of delivering vapor containing nicotine to an individual’s respiratory system;  
(ii) a component of the device described in Subsection (2)(a)(i); or  
(iii) an accessory sold in the same package as the device described in Subsection (2)(a)(i).  
(b) “Electronic cigarette” includes an e-cigarette as defined in Section 26-38-2.” |
## Local Laws Regulating E-Cigarettes

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<thead>
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<th>Locality &amp; Policy Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Boston, MA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Boston Public Health Commission Regulation Clean Air Works Workplace Smoking and E-Cigarette Use Restrictions (2011)</td>
<td>Prohibits use of tobacco and e-cigarettes in the workplace, including adjacent outdoor areas.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Definition:</strong> E-Cigarette – any electronic device composed of a mouthpiece, heating element, battery and/or electronic circuits that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine to the user, or relies on vaporization of any liquid or solid. This term shall include such devices whether they are manufactured as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, or under any other product name.</td>
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<td><strong>Chicago, IL</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ordinance banning the sale of all flavored tobacco products within 500 feet of any elementary, middle, or secondary school (2013)</td>
<td>“Any Chicago-based tobacco retailer located within a 500 foot radius of any elementary, middle, or secondary school has 90 days to cease selling all flavored tobacco products. Existing retailers will not be grandfathered in. There is an exception for “Retail Tobacco” stores that derive more than 80% of their gross revenue from the sale of loose tobacco, cigarettes, cigarillos, cigars, pipes, other smoking devices and accessories, hookahs and related products, and/or electronic cigarettes.”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New York City, NY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Local Law 94 of 2013 Establishing a Sales Age of 21 for Cigarettes, Tobacco Products &amp; Electronic Cigarettes</td>
<td>Raises the sales age from eighteen to twenty-one years for cigarettes and tobacco products and establishes a sales age of twenty-one years for electronic cigarettes.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Definition:</strong> “Electronic cigarette means a battery-operated device that contains nicotine and delivers vapor for inhalation. Electronic cigarette shall include any refill, cartridge, and any other component of an electronic cigarette.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Local Laws Regulating E-Cigarettes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality &amp; Policy Name</th>
<th>Text of Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk County, NY</td>
<td>Prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and “the use of e-cigarettes and like products in public places where traditional forms of smoking are already allowed.” <strong>Definition:</strong> “E-cigarette shall mean any electronic device composed of a mouth-piece, heating element, battery and electronic circuits that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine and/or other substances mixed with propylene glycol to the user as he or she simulates smoking. This term shall include such devices whether they are manufactured as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes or under any other product name.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence, RI</td>
<td>Prohibits sale or offer for sale of any flavored tobacco product, except in a smoking bar. <strong>Definition:</strong> “Tobacco product means any product containing tobacco or nicotine, including but not limited to cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, bidis, snus, dissolvable tobacco products, and electronic cigarette cartridges; provided, however, that such term shall not include: (1) cigarettes, including those cigarettes subject to the Special Rule for Cigarettes relating to characterizing flavors of the federal Family Smoking and Tobacco Prevention Act (sic); and (2) any product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, pursuant to its authority over drugs.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence, RI</td>
<td>Prohibits redemption of tobacco product coupons and sale of tobacco products through multi-pack offers or other price discounting methods. The law, which applies to all tobacco products including electronic cigarette cartridges, is located within the city’s local tobacco licensing scheme. <strong>Definition:</strong> “Tobacco products” shall mean any substance containing tobacco leaf, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco, orbs sticks, dissolvable tobacco products, and electronic cigarette cartridges; provided, however, that “tobacco products” shall not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use as a medical treatment to reduce and eliminate nicotine or tobacco dependence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Model Ordinance Regulating E-Cigarettes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization &amp; Policy Name</th>
<th>Text of Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights | Findings: “Unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes, or ‘e-cigarettes,’ closely resemble and purposefully mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale vaporized liquid nicotine created by heat through an electronic ignition system. After testing a number of e-cigarettes from two leading manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that various samples tested contained not only nicotine but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, including tobacco-specific nitrosamines and diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. The FDA’s testing also suggested that ‘quality control processes used to manufacture these products are inconsistent or non-existent.’ According to a more recent study, electronic cigarette emissions are made up of a high concentration of ultrafine particles, and the particle concentration is higher than in conventional tobacco smoke. E-cigarettes produce an aerosol or vapor of undetermined and potentially harmful substances, which may appear similar to the smoke emitted by traditional tobacco products. Their use in workplaces and public places where smoking of traditional tobacco products is prohibited creates concern and confusion and leads to difficulties in enforcing the smoking prohibitions. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that electronic smoking devices not be used indoors especially in smokefree environments, in order to minimize the risk to bystanders of breathing in the aerosol emitted by the devices and to avoid undermining the enforcement of smokefree laws.”
| Model Ordinance Prohibiting Smoking in All Workplaces and Public Places | Definition: “Electronic Smoking Device means any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person in any manner for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.” |

Other Helpful Resources

In December 2016, the Surgeon General released a comprehensive review of the public health impact of e-cigarettes on U.S. youth and young adults. The Tobacco Control Legal Consortium and Public Health Law Center’s website features several resources on e-cigarettes. Other legal centers affiliated with the Consortium, including ChangeLab Solutions, the New England Law | Boston’s Center for Public Health and Tobacco Policy, and the Legal Resource Center for Pub-
lic Health Policy at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, have additional resources. For information about federal regulation of e-cigarettes, check the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s website on e-cigarettes or the Consortium’s FDA Tobacco Action Center. The Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights website contains news, reports and related resources on e-cigarettes. An August 2016 report from the World Health Organization discusses recent research on the health effects of e-cigarettes, their efficacy for cessation and youth initiation, and policy implications. A summary of the scientific research on e-cigarettes is available on the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program website (see also webcast panel presentations, E-Cigarettes: The Vapor this Time?, Oct. 3, 2013). Other public health organizations, including Legacy and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, have material on e-cigarettes on their websites as well.

Contact Us

Please feel free to contact the Tobacco Control Legal Consortium with any questions about the information included in this guide or to discuss local concerns you may have about implementing such a policy regulating e-cigarettes.

Endnotes

1 The information contained in this document is not intended to constitute or replace legal advice.

2 These products are referred to by a variety of names including electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), personal vaporizers (PVs), electronic smoking devices, MODS (devices modified from items such as flashlights or metal tubes to fit an atomizer and vaporize liquid nicotine), vapor products and alternative nicotine delivery devices, among others. For the purposes of this publication, the term e-cigarette is intended to capture all of these products. Although the term “aerosol” is used throughout this publication, the term “vapor” is also often used interchangeably when defining or describing these products.


4 See, e.g., Am. Heart Ass’n et al., Electronic Cigarettes: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association (August 2014), http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/130/16/1418; Am. Acad. Pediatrics, E-Cigarettes (2013), http://www2.aap.org/richmondcenter/pdfs/ECigarette_handout.pdf. See also Letter from Nat’l Ass’n Att’y’s General to Margaret Hamburg, Comm’r Food and Drug Admin. (Sept. 24, 2013) (urging the FDA to move quickly to issue proposed regulations that will address the advertising, ingredients and sale to minors of e-cigarettes), http://www2.aap.org/richmondcenter/pdfs/ECigarette_handout.pdf; Letter from Ass’n State and Territorial Health Officials to Margaret Hamburg, Comm’r Food and Drug Admin. (Oct. 22, 2013) (urging the FDA to take all available measures to regulate “the advertising, ingredients, and sale to minors of electronic cigarettes”).

state statutes pertaining to e-cigarettes, containing legis-
lative links), http://publichealthlawcenter.org/resources/
us-e-cigarette-regulations-50-state-review; Legal Resource
Center for Maryland Public Health Law and Policy, Laws/
Regulations Restricting Sale of Electronic Smoking Devices and
law.umaryland.edu/programs/publichealth/documents/
LRC_ESD_Legislation.pdf (last visited December 2, 2016);
American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation, U.S. State and Lo-
cal Laws Regulating Use of Electronic Cigarettes (Oct. 1, 2016),

6 Because the user inhales aerosol or vapor, rather than smoke,
the use of an e-cigarette is often referred to as “vaping.”

7 Brian A. King et al., Awareness and Ever Use of Electronic Cig-
arettes Among U.S. Adults, 2010-2011, 15 NICOTINE & TOBACCO
RESEARCH 1623-7 (2013); Am. Ass’n Pediatrics, E-Cigarettes:
What Every Clinician Should Know (March 2015), https://
www2.aap.org/richmondcenter/pdfs/ECigPresentation-
Klein.pdf (last visited December 2, 2016).

8 E-Cigarette Sales are Smoking Hot, Set to Hit $1.7 Billion, CNBC.

9 U.S. Government Accountability Office, Electronic Cigarettes:
Imports, Tariffs and Data Collection, (May 7, 2015), http://
www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-491R; see also Well Fargo
Securities, Nielsen: Tobacco “All Channel” Data Through 12/26,
6 ex. 8 (2016) (estimating e-cigarette sales at $3.3 billion),
http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?ses-
sion=29&docId=40849. Note that reliable sales figures
are hard to determine, in part because online sales are not
recorded in retail surveys and the $3.3 billion from the 2016
report is an estimate. The actual sales measured by Nielsen
were $850 million.

10 See, e.g., Melissa Vonder Haar, Are E-Cigs the Wave of the
com/category-management-news-data/tobacco-news-da-
ta/articles/are-e-cigs-wave-future.

11 Lorillard Inc. Acquires Blu Ecigs, CSP DAILY NEWS, Apr.
ment-news-data/tobacco-news-data/articles/lorillard-ac-
quires-blue-cigs; Richard Craver, Reynolds Developing New
www.journalnow.com/business/article_cfr23198-c21f-
5b4e-8e7b-c5fb6190dcad.html; Shan Li, Marlboro Maker
articles.latimes.com/2013/jun/11/business/la-fi-mo-al-
tria-electronic-cigarette-20130611; Simon Akam, Big Tobacco
Fights Back: How the Cigarette Kings Bought the Vaping
newsweek.com/big-tobacco-fights-back-how-cigarette-
kings-bought-vaping-industry-327758; Edith Hancock and
Erin Brodwin, One of the World’s Largest Tobacco Companies
has Launched an Electric Cigarette That Might Be Just as Bad
for You as a Normal One, Business Insider, November 30,
arette-2016-1; Jonathan Adler, Why The FDA’s New E-Ciga-
rette Regulations are A Gift to Big Tobacco (and Could Actually
Harm Public Health), THE WASHINGTON POST, May 5, 2016,
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspira-
cy/wp/2016/05/05/why-the-fdas-new-e-cigarette-regu-
lations-are-a-gift-to-big-tobacco-and-could-actually-harm
public-health/?utm_term=.7da56936a5dc.

12 See, e.g., NBC Health News, FDA Limits E-Cigarettes, Cigars
fdc-proposes-limits-e-cigarettes-cigars-chewing-tobac-
co-n568601 (“Vaping has taken off in a big way, with sales
hitting an estimated $3.5 billion. An e-cigarette product
ranges from $10 to $120, depending on how many charges
it provides.”); Richard Craver, Electronic Cigarettes Gaining
www.journalnow.com/business/business_news/local/arti-
cle_41fa04d6-4655-11e2-95d9-0019bb30f31a.html (“Refill
cartridges can be purchased in different sizes and flavors;
five-packs typically cost between $9 and $18. By compar-
ison, a carton of cigarettes can cost between $25 and $50
for most name brands.”). But see Alex Liber et al, TOBACCO
CONTROL, Combustible Cigarettes Cost Less to Use Than E-Ciga-
rettes: Global Evidence and Tax Policy Implications (2016),
http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2016/03/16/
tobaccocontrol-2015-052874.short?source=acsh.org (where
American Cancer Society researchers found that on average,
the price of a pack of combustible tobacco cigarettes was
just over half the price of a disposable e-cigarette ($5.00
and $8.50, respectively). They also found that while the
liquid nicotine used to refill e-cigarettes can cost a couple of
dollars less than a pack of regular cigarettes, the minimum
price to purchase a rechargeable e-cigarette to use this liquid
nicotine is more than $20. The rechargeable e-cigarettes
preferred by most daily e-cigarette users cost even more.
Comparable units of combustible cigarettes cost less than
disposable e-cigarettes in almost every country in the sam-
ple. While the e-liquids consumed in rechargeable e-ciga-
rettes might cost less per comparable unit than combustible
cigarettes, the initial cost to purchase a rechargeable e-cig-
arette presents a significant cost barrier to switching from
smoking to vaping. Combustible tobacco cigarettes cost less to purchase than equivalent amounts of electronic cigarettes in 44 of 45 countries sampled around the world.


19 Megan Schroeder et al., Electronic Cigarettes and Nicotine Clinical Pharmacology, TOBACCO CONTROL (2014), http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/23/suppl_2/ii30.full.


22 See also Am. Heart Ass’n et al., supra note 4.

23 Letter from Nat’l Ass’n Att’y Gen’l, supra note 4.


uid+video+instructions&amp;FORM=VDRE (examples of videos related to e-liquid (e-juice) and instructions for filling e-cigarettes).


“(A) cigarette or any of its component parts (including the tobacco, filter, or paper) shall not contain, as a constituent (including a smoke constituent) or additive, an artificial or natural flavor (other than tobacco or menthol) or an herb or spice, including strawberry, grape, orange, clove, cinnamon, pineapple, vanilla, coconut, licorice, cocoa, chocolate, cherry, or coffee, that is a characterizing flavor of the tobacco product or tobacco smoke.” 21 U.S.C. § 387g(a)(1)(A) (2009).


29 Id.

30 Letter from Nat’l Ass’n Att’ys General to Margaret Hamburg, Comm’r Food and Drug Admin, supra note 4.

31 For more specific information related to the deeming regulation, please visit our FDA Tobacco Action Center at http://publichealthlawcenter.org/topics/tobacco-control/fda-tobacco-action-center. For the latest federal information about regulating e-cigarettes, visit the FDA’s website at http:// www.fda.gov.

32 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, supra note 27.


34 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, supra note 27.


41 See Id.

42 Sarah Zhang, E-Cigas are Going Tobacco-Free with Synthetic Nicotine, WIRED, June 27, 2016, https://www.wired.
Regulating Electronic Cigarettes & Similar Devices

43 U.S. Food & Drug Admin, Smoking Cessation Products to Help You Quit, http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/Consumer-Updates/ucm198176.htm, (last visited Dec. 5, 2016). These FDA-approved cessation devices include products such as nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray and inhalers.

44 As just one indication of enforcement challenges, some e-cigarettes sold as non-nicotine products have cartridges that can be replaced with nicotine cartridges or vials of liquid nicotine purchased locally or online. See, e.g., Prime Vapor, https://www.primevapor.com/featured-products/?display-order=7 (last visited December 5, 2016) and White Cloud, http://www.whitecloudelectroniccigarettes.com/how-it-works/ecig-strengths (last visited December 5, 2016).

45 Sottera, Inc. v. Food & Drug Admin., 627 F.3d 891 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

46 Generally, the nicotine in electronic cigarettes is “derived from natural tobacco plants.” However, it is not entirely clear whether that is true of all electronic cigarettes currently on the market, or whether it will be true of future products. Moreover, not all electronic cigarettes contain nicotine; some contain other chemicals such as lobelia. Letter from Michael M. Levy, Jr., Director, Division of New Drugs and Labeling Compliance, Food & Drug Administration, to William P. Bartkowski, President, Ruyan American, Inc. (Sept. 8, 2010), http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/EnforcementActions/WarningLetters/ucm225181.htm.


48 See Nat’l Ass’n of Tobacco Outlets, Inc. v. City of Providence, 731 F.3d 71 (1st Cir. 2013). http://media.ca1.uscourts.gov/pdf/opinions/13-1053P-01A.pdf (upholding two 2012 Providence ordinances that restrict sales of flavored non-cigarette tobacco products and prohibit the redemption of tobacco product coupons and other price discounting practices in retail stores and ruling that the laws serve the city’s legitimate goal of reducing smoking and other tobacco use and that they do not violate the First Amendment and are not preempted by federal and state law).


50 See Tobacco Control Legal Consortium, supra note 5.

51 Several other states are considering legislation to regulate the sale and use of e-cigarettes and a growing number of countries, such as Australia, Canada, Brazil, Norway, Lebanon, Israel, Mexico, Hong Kong and Singapore, have imposed marketing restrictions on these products. Regulation of e-cigarettes in England has historically been opposed by lawmakers and the English medical community, but there has been recent progress. See Andrew Higgins & Matt Richtel, European Lawmakers Reject Tight Restrictions on E-Cigarettes, N.Y. Times, Oct. 8, 2013 (describing the European Parliament’s decision to forgo proposals by health officials that e-cigarettes be tightly regulated as medical devices, yet still imposing tight restrictions on advertising and sponsorship and prohibiting sales to young people), http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/09/business/international/european-lawmakers-reject-tight-restrictions-on-e-cigarettes.html; Andrew Higgins & Sabrina Tavernise, Smokers Urged to Switch to E-Cigarettes by British Medical Group, N.Y. Times, April 27, 2016 (describing the 2016 report of the U.K. Center for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies at the University of Nottingham that concluded, in contrast with the findings of American doctors, that the benefits of electronic cigarettes “far outweigh the potential harms.”), http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/28/health/e-cigarettes-vaping-quitting-smoking-royal-college-of-physicians.html; David Jolly, European Court of Justice Upholds Strict Rules on Tobacco, N.Y. Times, May 4, 2016 (describing the decision of the European Court of Justice to uphold restrictions on the sale of electronic cigarettes placed by the European Union), http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/05/business/eus-highest-court-upholds-strict-smoking-rules.html.

52 U.S. Food & Drug Admin., Summary of Results: Laboratory Analysis of Electronic Cigarettes Conducted by FDA (July 22, 2009), http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm173146.htm.