

---

**Denver 2017**

**Secs. 24-269—24-300. Reserved.**

**ARTICLE IX. ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE CONTROL<sup>1</sup>**

**Sec. 24-301. Definitions.**

- (a) *Food service establishment* means any business licensed by the city to serve food in an indoor area.
- (b) *Public places* means places open to the public or open to the public upon payment of a fee.
- (c) *Smoke or smoking* means inhaling, exhaling, or carrying any burning tobacco product.
- (d) *Smoke-free area* means an area free of environmental tobacco smoke.
- (e) *Work area* means any part of an indoor area at a place of employment where an employee carries out his or her responsibilities.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

**Sec. 24-302. Smoking regulated.**

Smoking in the city is regulated as provided in this article.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

**Sec. 24-303. No-smoking areas.**

Notwithstanding any other provision in this article, no person shall smoke in any place designated, by signs conforming to section 24-309, by the owner, operator or person in charge as a no-smoking area.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

**Sec. 24-304. Smoking in public places.**

Smoking in public places is regulated as follows:

- (a) In indoor spaces, smoking shall be prohibited except:
  - (1) In a fully enclosed, independently ventilated smoking area, which shall not exceed one-half (½) of the facility;
  - (2) When exempted by section 24-306; and

---

<sup>1</sup>Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, adopted Aug. 23, 1993, repealed Art. IX, §§ 24-301—24-311, relative to smoking in public places, and enacted new provisions in lieu thereof as Art. IX, §§ 24-301—24-317. Formerly, such provisions derived from Ord. No. 117-86, § 1, adopted Mar. 10, 1986.

Cross reference(s)—Air pollution control, Ch. 4.

- 
- (3) In designated smoking areas established under section 24-307.
  - (b) In outdoor spaces smoking shall be allowed except as follows:
    - (1) Within the exterior walls/fences of an open-air theater, smoking is prohibited in open seating areas, food/drink concession areas and related lines leading thereto, restrooms and amphitheater aisles and allowed elsewhere within the facility only in designated smoking areas established by the owner, operator or person in charge, in a manner consistent with section 24-307(a);
    - (2) During special events open to the public and held within the exterior walls/fences of a botanic garden or zoo, smoking is prohibited except in smoking areas established therein by the facility owner, operator or person in charge, in places apart from visitor viewing areas and walkways, in a manner consistent with section 24-307(a);
    - (3) Within the exterior walls/fences of a sport stadium, smoking is prohibited in open seating areas, aisles, interior ramps or stairs leading to seating areas, food/drink concession areas and the area of lines leading thereto and allowed elsewhere within the facility only in designated smoking areas established by the owner, operator or person in charge, in a manner consistent with section 24-307(a);
    - (4) Within the exterior walls/fences of tennis courts and swimming pools, smoking is prohibited;
    - (5) On certain public premises adjoining hospital properties, as prohibited by section 38-8; and
    - (6) On the 16th Street pedestrian and transit mall, as prohibited by section 38-9.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93; Ord. No. 1125-17, § 1, 10-30-17)

Editor's note(s)—Ordinance No. 1125-17, § 1, adopted October 30, 2017, is effective as of December 1, 2017.

### **Sec. 24-305. Regulation of smoking in places of employment.**

- (a) Employers shall provide a smoke-free work area for every employee requesting not to have to breathe environmental tobacco smoke.
- (b) Each employer having an indoor place of employment shall implement, make known, follow and enforce a written smoking policy which shall:
  - (1) State that every employee has a right to work in an area free of environmental tobacco smoke. If a designated smoke-free area does not eliminate environmental tobacco smoke from the employee's work area, except in food service establishments, the employer will take steps to eliminate the environmental tobacco smoke. In any dispute concerning the smoking policy, the health of the nonsmoker shall take precedence. In food service establishments, employers shall accommodate an employee's request to work in the no-smoking section unless such accommodation is impractical;
  - (2) Prohibit smoking in auditoriums, classrooms, conference/meeting rooms, elevators, elevator lobbies, hallways, stairwells, escalators, medical facilities, and restrooms; and
  - (3) Prohibit smoking in employee cafeterias, lunchrooms and lounges unless separate facilities are available to nonsmokers.
- (c) An employer may prohibit smoking throughout an entire place of employment by posting signs required by section 24-309.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

---

## **Sec. 24-306. Smoking restriction not applicable.**

Except when a facility or a portion thereof has been designated by the owner, operator, lessee/licensee, or person in charge as nonsmoking, the regulations of this article do not apply to:

- (a) A bar or bar area of any facility, except the dining area therein which shall be treated as a food service establishment;
- (b) Private residences, except portions used for commercial child care, teaching, tutoring, health services, or personal care services while being so used;
- (c) Hotel and motel rooms when rented to guests;
- (d) Conference or meeting rooms within restaurants, hotels and motels while being used exclusively for private functions;
- (e) Retail tobacco stores;
- (f) A private enclosed office work place occupied exclusively by a smoker or smokers, even though such office may be visited by nonsmokers. However, an office work area with a cash register, service counter, or waiting area open to the public shall be subject to this article;
- (g) A private function not open to the public;
- (h) Food service establishments with a seating capacity of less than twenty-five (25) persons; and
- (i) A business which has four (4) or fewer employees.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

Cross reference(s)—Child care establishments, Ch. 11; food service establishments, § 23-47 et seq.; smoking in retail food establishments, § 23-24; smoking in retail food establishments, § 38-7.

## **Sec. 24-307. Designating smoking areas.**

- (a) So long as the smoking area does not exceed the nonsmoking area and smoke or the products of smoking do not contaminate the nonsmoking area, the owner, manager or person in charge of a facility may designate smoking areas which do not meet the requirements of section 24-304(a)(1) except in the indoor portions of the following facilities:
  - (1) Elevators, elevator lobbies, stairwells, and escalators;
  - (2) Public walkways, hallways, lobbies;
  - (3) Buses, taxicabs, and other means of public transit;
  - (4) Public restrooms;
  - (5) Ticketing, boarding, baggage collection, and waiting areas in public transportation depots;
  - (6) Service lines, check-out counters, cash register areas, or cashier areas;
  - (7) Retail stores;
  - (8) All areas available to and customarily used by the public in all businesses, commercial establishments and nonprofit entities;
  - (9) Indoor malls of buildings or structures which are open to the public including, but not limited to, food courts (to be treated as a separate food service establishment) located within or adjacent to the mall;

- 
- (10) All public areas in grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores or any other retail food establishment whose primary function is to sell food to the public for consumption on or off the premises;
  - (11) All educational facilities;
  - (12) Aquariums, galleries, zoos, libraries, museums, recreation centers and botanic gardens;
  - (13) Any facility open to the public and used for the presentation of motion pictures, dramas, lectures, musicals, recitals or similar functions;
  - (14) Health care facilities including, but not limited to, hospitals, clinics, physical therapy facilities, and medical and dental offices;
  - (15) Commercial child care centers and those areas of private homes used for commercial child care, teaching, tutoring, or health or personal care services while being so used;
  - (16) Polling places;
  - (17) Any room being used by any board, council, commission, committee or agency of the City and County of Denver for a public meeting;
  - (18) Courtrooms, jury waiting rooms and deliberation rooms in any building which serves as a place for the convening of any court organized under the City Charter;
  - (19) Amusement centers, including video arcades and children's play areas;
  - (20) Theaters and concert halls.
- (b) In food service establishments, including dinner theaters, with a seating capacity of twenty-five (25) persons or more, the owner, operator or person in charge shall designate a no-smoking area of sufficient size to accommodate, without unreasonable delay, patrons who request to be seated in such an area. The delay shall be deemed reasonable if it is equal for smokers and nonsmokers. The smoking and no-smoking areas may be adjusted at any time to meet the needs of smoking and no-smoking patrons. Smoking shall be prohibited in the waiting areas of all food service establishments with a seating capacity of twenty-five (25) persons or more. This paragraph shall apply only to fully enclosed areas within food service establishments and not to open air areas.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

### **Sec. 24-308. Procedure for designating smoking areas.**

An area is designated as a smoking area by the installation of signs as follows:

- (a) Signs stating "Smoking Permitted in this Area" shall be permanently posted in every smoking area in such a manner that the area where smoking is allowed is clearly delineated.
- (b) Ash receptacles shall be placed at entrances to no-smoking areas from smoking areas and signs shall be posted at or near the receptacles stating: "No Smoking by City Ordinance, Extinguish Here."

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

### **Sec. 24-309. Signs.**

"No Smoking," "No Smoking Except In Designated Areas," "No Smoking by City Ordinance, Extinguish Here," and "Smoking Permitted in this Area" signs shall measure not less than forty (40) square inches in size with "NO SMOKING" in all upper case letters not less than one (1) inch high, the remainder of the lettering may be lower

---

case and shall be not less than one-half (½) inch high. The international "No Smoking" symbol, not less than five (5) inches high, may be used as a substitute for a "No Smoking" sign. A sign stating "No Smoking," "No Smoking Except in Designated Areas," and the "No Smoking" symbol may also contain the words "By City Ordinance" or "by Article IX of Chapter 24 of the Revised Municipal Code."

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

Cross reference(s)—Signs, Ch. 46.

### **Sec. 24-310. Location of signs and other notices.**

In addition to other locations set forth in this chapter, signs shall be posted as follows:

- (a) No smoking signs shall be visible at all public entrances to every facility where smoking is regulated. Facilities with designated smoking and no-smoking areas shall post signs which read "No Smoking" or "No Smoking Except in Designated Areas."
- (b) In the following specific settings, these additional requirements shall also apply:
  - (1) In theaters, signs shall be posted in the lobby stating that smoking is prohibited within the theater or auditorium. Motion picture theaters shall project, prior to each feature, a five-second message saying smoking is prohibited.
  - (2) In addition to appropriate signs at the entrance, in indoor malls no smoking signs shall be prominently and clearly posted in sufficient locations to alert persons using the mall of the prohibition against smoking.
  - (3) At indoor food service lines, no smoking signs shall be clearly visible from the entrance to the food service line.
  - (4) In grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores or retail establishments, clearly visible "No Smoking" signs shall be posted at all public entrances.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

### **Sec. 24-311. Responsibility of the owner, operator, manager or person in charge.**

The owner, operator or manager of every facility open to the public or open to the public upon the payment of a fee where smoking is regulated shall:

- (a) Post signs as required by this article;
- (b) Request that anyone known to be smoking in a no-smoking area comply with the law;
- (c) If a host or hostess is on duty, ask patrons for their seating preference between smoking or nonsmoking areas prior to seating or, if no host or hostess is on duty, adequately post the entrance so that patrons will be aware of the location of smoking and nonsmoking areas;
- (d) In sports arenas, stadiums and indoor malls where a public address system is available and regularly used for nonemergency announcements, make public address announcements regarding the smoking regulations at appropriate times.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

---

**Sec. 24-312. Enforcement.**

In enforcing this article, any police officer may issue a summons and complaint to be filed in county court to:

- (a) Any person personally observed not complying with a "No Smoking" sign posted in accordance with this article;
- (b) The owner, operator or manager of any facility that has not posted the required signs; and
- (c) Any person who, according to a written statement by the owner, operator, manager, patron or employee of any facility, is not complying with a "No Smoking" sign posted in accordance with this article.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

**Sec. 24-313. Agency responsibility.**

Every department, agency and office of the city shall implement this article in all facilities under its management control.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

**Sec. 24-314. Nonretaliation.**

It shall be unlawful for an employer to retaliate against or discharge any employee for requesting a nonsmoking work area, or filing a complaint or otherwise reporting a violation of this article.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

**Sec. 24-315. Other applicable laws.**

This article shall not be interpreted or construed to permit smoking where it is otherwise restricted by other applicable laws.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

**Sec. 24-316. Power of board of public health and environment.**

The board of public health and environment is hereby authorized to adopt, and the manager of public health and environment may promulgate, rules and regulations deemed necessary for the proper and effective enforcement of the provisions of this article.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93; Ord. No. 1110-96, § 1, 12-16-96; Ord. No. 427-18, § 14, 6-11-18)

**Sec. 24-317. Effective date.**

This article shall be effective sixty (60) days from and after the date of its enactment, except insofar as the application of this article to professional sports stadiums where it shall not be effective until February 1, 1994.

(Ord. No. 655-93, § 1, 8-23-93)

---

**Secs. 24-318—24-350. Reserved.**