

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

AgCenter PS-49

Version: 1

August 1, 2014

Smoking & Tobacco Use

A. Policy

State law RS 40:1300.263 requires public post secondary institutions to adopt a smoke-free policy and authorizes adoption of a tobacco-free policy. This policy is intended to comply with State law. The policy applies to faculty, staff, graduate assistants, student employees, temporary/transient/contingent employees, volunteers, contractors, and visitors.

For the purpose of this policy, smoking means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and any other lighted combustible plant material; it also means the use of electronic cigarettes and any other product that is used to deliver nicotine by means of smoke or vapor. Tobacco products means any and all forms of tobacco, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, snuff, and chewing tobacco, as well as electronic cigarettes and any other product which is used to deliver nicotine by means of smoke or vapor. This does not include any FDA-approved product or device intended to assist the user to stop smoking or using tobacco products.

This policy is divided into three sections: (1) offices located “on campus” which means those physically located on the central Baton Rouge campus, (2) extension offices located in parish buildings, and (3) all other offices which includes but is not limited to regional offices and research stations.

1. AgCenter offices physically housed on the Baton Rouge campus will follow the sections of the policy of the LSU A&M campus shown below. Enforcement and exceptions will be administered through the AgCenter.

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TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

I. PURPOSE

The use of tobacco products is harmful to health and imposes costs on LSU and all members of the LSU community. State law RS 40:1300.263 requires LSU to adopt a smoke-free policy and authorizes LSU to adopt a tobacco-free policy. This policy is intended to comply with State law and to balance the individual liberty of members of the LSU community with concern for the significant negative health effects of tobacco use, the costs associated with campus facilities administration, and LSU's ability to recruit students, faculty, and staff.

II. DEFINITIONS

LSU Campus: all land, property, buildings, and other facilities owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by LSU. This includes any land, property, buildings, and other facilities that may be leased by LSU to private third parties, such as fraternities, sororities, affiliated foundations, or others.

Smoking: inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and any other lighted combustible plant material; it also means the use of electronic cigarettes and any other product that is used to deliver nicotine by means of smoke or vapor.

Tobacco Products: any and all forms of tobacco, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, smokeless tobacco, snuff, and chewing tobacco, as well as electronic cigarettes and any other product which is used to deliver nicotine by means of smoke or vapor. This does not include any FDA-approved product or device intended to assist the user to stop smoking or using tobacco products.

III. GENERAL POLICY

Smoking and the use of all tobacco products on the LSU Campus is prohibited. This prohibition applies to all individuals while on the LSU Campus, including faculty, staff, students, administrators, contractors, and visitors.

2. Off campus extension offices housed in local government buildings will follow the policies established by local government except that at minimum, the extension office must be smoke-free.
3. Stations and those off campus extension offices not administered by local government will be at minimum smoke-free and this will include all buildings (offices, sheds, barns, shops, etc. in which employees work), parking lots, sidewalks, and other building grounds such as grassy areas and similar maintained areas.

B. Enforcement

Effective implementation of this policy relies on the courtesy, respect, and cooperation of all members of the AgCenter. It is expected that all will comply with the policy voluntarily. For those who do not, the issues will be addressed with the tobacco user through verbally discussing the issue and formal warning, but ultimately punitive sanctions may be imposed.

1. A single violation of this policy will not be cause for discipline or other sanctions. Repeated violations may be grounds for discipline and sanctions.
2. If someone is seen violating this policy, any member of the AgCenter community may inform the violator of this policy and request that he or she comply. If the alleged violator does not comply or if the observer prefers not to directly confront the alleged violator, details of the violation may be brought to the attention of the appropriate official responsible for the alleged violator as shown below:

- a. For employees, the employee's unit head or the AgCenter Human Resource Management Office.
 - b. For students enrolled on campus, the Office of Student Advocacy & Accountability.
 - c. For contractors, the unit head, the AgCenter Director of Facilities Planning, AgCenter Human Resource Management or the AgCenter Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration.
 - d. For 4H youth and 4H volunteers, the 4H agent, 4H coordinator, parish chair, regional director or 4H Department.
 - e. For other volunteers, the appropriate unit head or the AgCenter Human Resource Management Office.
 - f. Where the status of the alleged violator is unknown, the matter may be brought to the attention of any appropriate AgCenter official.
3. Building Coordinators, in consultation with their unit heads, are encouraged to designate an employee to whom concerns about violations of this policy in the area near the building may be brought. Any appropriate official to whom such a concern is brought should request that the user comply with the policy. If the user refuses to comply or the issue continues to occur, the representative should obtain the identity of the user and make a referral to the appropriate university official.
 4. Exceptions may only be granted by the Vice President for Agriculture and generally only for the following circumstances:
 - a. Research involving tobacco products and only with appropriate controls and subject to any applicable health and safety standards.
 - b. Educational, clinical, or other appropriate purposes.

C. Notifications and Signage

Ashtrays are no longer to be provided on the LSU Campus and the LSU Office of Facility Services has been given responsibility for removing, covering, or otherwise making them unusable. Unit heads are given the same responsibility for off campus facilities. All unit heads must convey information about this policy to their faculty and staff.

SOURCES: Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1300.263