

To honorable prefectural governors, prefectural legislators, city government ordinance directors, city government ordinance council chairman

Please enact regulations similar to the “Tokyo regulations to prevent passive smoking”

Honorable gentlemen and ladies representing the nation,

To enhance passive smoking countermeasures, we are submitting a regulatory proposal in the National Diet to promote health. To summarize this proposal,

- the administrative body at medical institutions and schools will implement a no smoking policy on their premises. (The establishment of outdoor smoking areas is allowed.)
 - At restaurants, a general rule of no smoking indoors will be implemented (a designated smoking room may be installed).
 - In cases with areas of customer seating less than 100m², if private management of small and medium-sized companies of less than 50 million yen of capital stock operating at the existing establishment display signs of “smoking” “separate areas for smoking and no smoking” et cetera, then smoking is allowed under the stated conditions.
 - In contrast, new establishments will implement a general rule of no smoking indoors.
- Given this, it is estimated that in 55% of all restaurants (and in large cities in 80%-90% of all restaurants) smoking will be permissible.

In contrast, restaurants that hire employees in Tokyo (approximately 84% of the total restaurants) regardless of the store area will make a general rule of no smoking indoors. We were informed that the city council intends to announce the main points of this proposed regulation in June.

Then, it was reported that Osaka mayor Yoshimura and Osaka governor Matsui are looking forward to collaborating for the 2025 world fair exposition, and are aiming to enact their own passive smoking regulations to extend the targeted rules around the region.

chronicle

1. We kindly ask that other prefectural and city governments and legislative assemblies establish regulations, according to movements in Tokyo and Osaka prefectures, (we think that that regulations are already being considered in each district) especially for customers and employees of restaurants and similar establishments to protect the health of citizens, residents, visitors, tourists and foreigners from the harms of passive smoking. As the result of city government ordinances, passive smoking regulations are in the early stages of development (and existing regulations in Kanagawa prefecture and Hyogo prefecture are being reviewed and revised).

2. As in the case of the Tokyo proposal, concerning restaurants that are hiring employees (approximately 84% of the total restaurants) regardless of the store area, we think that it is a good way of protecting the health of all employees. (There is movement in the restaurant industry to oppose the proposals due to apprehensions about the decrease in sales revenue, but smoking prohibition is not expected to reduce in sales revenue at restaurants. On the contrary, it is being reported from foreign and domestic markets that smoking prohibition increases sales revenues.)

3. An indoor no smoking policy is desired for the health of customers, shopkeepers and their family members at existing restaurants that do not have employees and at new shops that are required to have a no smoking policy indoors.

4. Because smoke always diffuses from smoking areas with a separated smoking policy, a complete no smoking policy indoors is needed.

<http://www.jstc.or.jp/uploads/uploads/files/journal/2018423DC.pdf>

5. To ensure compliance to the regulations, penalties (administrative fines) are essential.

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