

More Frequently Asked Questions

How are restaurants affected?

The new laws have a slightly different timetable for restaurants, which will have an additional 30 months (until March 1, 2006) to be either all smokefree or—if they elect to permit smoking in some areas—to provide enclosed and separately ventilated smoking rooms that meet the laws' requirements for protecting nonsmoking areas.

Unlike other public places and workplaces, restaurants will be able to continue designated smoking and nonsmoking areas without separate smoking rooms until March 1, 2006. Restaurants will be permitted to serve food and beverage in their smoking rooms, and the new laws consider all sizes of restaurants the same, regardless of seating capacity. The laws also specify that smoking may be permitted in outdoor dining areas of restaurants, but not within 15 feet of any exterior public doorway or air intake.