

## **Putin signed a law banning smoking in public places**

[19.05.13]

**A new anti-smoking law shall come into effect from 1 June 2013 in the Russian Federation. The law, which will ban about smoking in public places, passed the Parliament (State Duma) on 12 February 2013 and was approved by the Federation Council on 20 February this year. I will be introduced in stages over several years.**

According to the document smoking will be prohibited from 1 of June 2013 on the territory and premises of educational, medical, sports and cultural facilities. Also in the buildings of state power, at workplaces, in urban and suburban transport, subways, train stations, airports, elevators and stairwells, playgrounds, gas stations and at bus stops smoking will be strictly forbidden.

In offices and residential apartment buildings smoking is allowed only in special places - outdoors or in a room equipped with ventilation. The Regions have been given the right to impose additional restrictions.

In addition, from 1 June 2014, smoking will be prohibited in long-distance trains, on passenger ships on long voyages, hotels and restaurants. Smoking on platforms in train stations will be completely banned – that makes the anti-smoking law even stricter than in foreign countries.

As reported by the news agency "New Region", the bill also prohibits tobacco advertising and introduces significant limitations to sell cigarettes. From June 2014 tobacco products will be sold only in shops and kiosks. From January 2014 minimum prices for cigarettes will be introduced.

People who are violating the rules have to pay up to 1500 rubles. Smoking on planes can cost up to 50 000 rubles.

Regarding cafes and restaurants the new law will come into power after July 1, next year. Smoking will be prohibited inside of those places and the owner is obliged to implement appropriate controls. (Sources: Rossiskaya Gazeta, nr2.ru, Roman Muravitskiy)