

# New Laws Governing Cigar Sales in New York City Tobacco Retail Stores

## What You Need to Know

### CIGARS

#### What is the new law regarding cigar packaging and pricing?

A cigar sold for \$3 or less must be sold in a package of at least four cigars. (An individual cigar sold for more than \$3 is not covered by this law.)

#### Can I sell a package of two or three cigars?

Yes, but only if each cigar within the pack is sold for more than \$3.

#### Can I sell products for the manufacturer's suggested retail price if that price does not comply with the law's requirements?

No. A retailer cannot sell cigars that do not comply with this law, regardless of what the package says.



#### What is the penalty for a violation of the law governing cigar and little cigar packaging?

Any person found to be in violation is liable for a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for their first violation, and \$2,000 for a second violation within three years. Additional fines may apply for second or subsequent violations, depending on the circumstances. Multiple violations may result in the suspension or revocation of the cigarette retail dealer license or other penalties.

#### What is the penalty for a violation of the law governing little cigar pricing?

Any person found to be in violation is liable for a civil penalty of \$1,000 for their first violation, and \$2,000 for a second violation, within five years. A violation of this law also serves as a basis for suspension or revocation of the cigarette retail dealer license.

### LITTLE CIGARS

#### What is the new law regarding little cigars?

Little cigars must be sold in packs of at least 20 for at least \$10.50 per pack.

#### What are little cigars?

Little cigars are cigars that weigh less than 4 lbs per 1,000 cigars, or cigars that have an integrated filter (regardless of weight). Little cigars look like cigarettes, but the wrapper is typically brown and contains tobacco. They may be labeled as "little cigars," "cigars" or "large cigars."

#### How can I tell if a product is a little cigar?

All cigar products that have an integrated filter are little cigars. Little cigars that are unfiltered have the same New York State excise tax as cigarettes. If you are unsure, ask your wholesale supplier.



#### Does this law apply to retail tobacco stores?

Yes. This law applies to all stores in New York City that sell tobacco products.

#### When does this law go into effect?

This law took effect on March 19, 2014.

#### How will this law be enforced?

It will be enforced by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs.

#### How can I read this fact sheet in other languages or see the actual law?

Visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov) and search "tobacco laws," or call 311 and ask for information about cigar sales.

#### What if I have questions or need more information?

Call 311 and ask for information about cigar sales.