

# Model Policy for a Smokefree Casino or Gaming Facility Workplace

## ABC CASINO SMOKEFREE POLICY

**ABC Casino is dedicated to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive work environment for our employees.**

The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, has concluded that (1) secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; (2) exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer; (3) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and (4) establishing smokefree workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace, because ventilation and other air-cleaning technologies cannot completely control for exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke. According to the 2010 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*, even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful and low levels of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke lead to a rapid and sharp increase in dysfunction and inflammation of the lining of the blood vessels, which are implicated in heart attacks and stroke.

Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer. The National Cancer Institute determined in 1999 that secondhand smoke is responsible for the early deaths of approximately 53,000 Americans annually.

According to the World Health Organization, scientific evidence has firmly established that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, a pollutant that causes serious illness in adults and children, and that implementing 100% smokefree environments is the only effective way to protect the population from the harmful effects of exposure to secondhand smoke. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommends making all casinos 100% smokefree to ensure indoor air within casinos is safe for workers to breathe.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires that disabled persons have access to public places and workplaces, deems impaired respiratory function to be a disability.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the risk of acute myocardial infarction and coronary heart disease associated with exposure to tobacco smoke is nonlinear at low doses for some health outcomes (e.g. heart disease), increasing rapidly with relatively small doses such as those received from secondhand smoke or actively smoking one or two cigarettes a day, and has warned that all patients at increased risk for coronary heart disease or with known coronary artery disease should avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking.

Smokefilled workplaces result in higher worker absenteeism due to respiratory disease, lower productivity, higher cleaning and maintenance costs, increased health insurance rates, and increased liability claims for diseases related to exposure to secondhand smoke.

Unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, closely resemble and purposefully mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale vaporized liquid nicotine created by heat through an electronic ignition system. After testing a number of e-cigarettes from two leading manufacturers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that various samples tested contained not only nicotine but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, including tobacco-specific nitrosamines and diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze. The FDA's testing also suggested that quality control processes used to manufacture 14

these products are inconsistent or nonexistent. E-cigarettes produce a vapor of undetermined and potentially harmful substances, which may appear similar to the smoke emitted by traditional tobacco products. Their use in workplaces and public places where smoking of traditional tobacco products is prohibited creates concern and confusion and leads to difficulties in enforcing the smoking prohibitions.

In light of these findings, ABC Casino shall be entirely smokefree effective [date].

Smoking, including the use of an e-cigarette, shall not be permitted in any enclosed company facility, including gaming floors. Smoking shall also be prohibited in any outdoor company worksite where two or more employees are required to be in the course of their employment. This includes, without limitation, common work areas, conference and meeting rooms, private offices, elevators, hallways, medical facilities, cafeterias, employee lounges, stairs, restrooms, construction sites, temporary offices such as trailers, and vehicles. This policy applies to all employees, clients, contractors, and visitors.

Copies of this policy shall be distributed to all employees. No Smoking signs shall be posted at entrances to all company facilities and at all applicable outdoor worksites.

This policy is being announced 3 months in advance in order to give smokers time to adapt to its restrictions and to facilitate a smooth transition to a smokefree environment. Those employees who smoke and would like to take this opportunity to quit are invited to participate in the smoking cessation programs being offered by the company.

The success of this policy will depend on the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of both smokers and nonsmokers. All employees share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy.

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Signature of CEO or President Date:

