

Inquiry from Imperial Tobacco New Zealand Ltd on 1 June 2016

The Ministry has received an inquiry from Imperial Tobacco New Zealand Ltd requesting clarification of the process steps relating to the consultation on the draft regulations and the finalisation of the regulations, and asking whether there is a step for further workshops/consultation with Industry at this juncture or during the initial consultation process.

The Ministry's response

The draft regulations are currently open for consultation and submissions close on 29 July 2016.

Instructions for submitters are clearly set out in the consultation document in the section headed *How to have your say*.

Information about the process for finalising the regulations and how this relates to the commencement clause of the Smoke-free Environments (Tobacco Plain Packaging) Amendment Bill is provided in the section headed *Scope of this consultation* and also in the *Background* section on page 2 of the consultation document.

In launching the consultation, Associate Health Minister Peseta Sam Lotu-liga issued a statement on 31 May 2016 that it is expected the Bill will be passed this year.

In summary:

- officials will report back to Cabinet after the consultation closes and the Government will then make decisions about the final content of the regulations
- it is expected that the Bill will be passed in 2016
- it has not yet been decided when the final regulations will be gazetted
- it has not yet been decided when the amended Act and the regulations will come into force.

After submissions have been received and assessed, the Ministry will consider whether there are any matters raised where further interaction with submitters, including affected parties in the tobacco industry, might be helpful in finalising the regulations.

The Ministry currently has no plans for workshops or any other meetings with affected parties in the tobacco industry.

In keeping with New Zealand's international obligations and commitments (as clearly set out on page 5 of the consultation document in the section headed *Protection from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry*) the Ministry only interacts with the tobacco industry where and when necessary for the effective regulation of tobacco products.