

# Italy bans minors from buying electronic cigarettes

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Italy on Tuesday announced plans to raise the legal limit for buying electronic cigarettes to 18 years from a previous 16, citing the high dose of nicotine inhaled when using the smokeless product.

The new rules will go into effect on April 23 and follow a study ordered by the [health ministry](#) which found that the level of [nicotine](#) consumed—even through moderate use—of so-called e-cigarettes exceeds the recommended level established by the European Food Safety Authority.

The decision comes as the product, used by many trying to kick their [smoking habit](#), have seen increasing popularity across Italy, with an increasing number of outlets popping up dedicated to pushing it onto the market.

Although the ban for minors to buy the smoke-free inhalator is so far only scheduled to run until October 31, there is a possibility it will be extended as more studies are made to investigate the effects of it.

Earlier this month, France's [Health Minister](#) Marisol Touraine said she had ordered a study looking into the consequences of using the product.

E-cigarettes first emerged in China in 2003 as an alternative to tobacco, which kills nearly six million people each year. It is an electronic [inhaler](#) that simulates the act of smoking by producing mist and with the tip of it lighting up.

Several countries, including Colombia, Panama and Uruguay, have banned the smokeless e-cigarettes, with lawmakers insisting there was no proof they helped smokers kick their addiction.

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