



The Delaware River and Bay Authority

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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DRBA Implements Smoking and Tobacco Ban

Policy Effective January 1, 2017; Includes Ferry Vessels, Parking Lots and Inside Buildings

New Castle, DE - Effective January 1, 2017, the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) will join a growing list of government agencies, institutions of higher learning, businesses, and others to adopt a smoke-free and tobacco-free campus policy. The Authority's new policy prohibits smoking and tobacco use at agency property (inside and outside) and applies to all agency employees, visitors, customers, patrons, contractors, and vendors.

According to Vincent P. Meconi, Chief Operations Officer for the Authority, the agency is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment. "Tobacco use is one of the leading causes of preventable death and disease in this country," Meconi said. "Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard that can lead to illness and premature death in children and non-smoking adults. We are focused on promoting a healthier lifestyle and improving everyone's quality of life."

Effective on January 1, 2017, smoking or use of tobacco products, objects or devices, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic cigars or smokeless tobacco products will be prohibited on Authority property. This policy applies to terminal buildings, administrative facilities, aboard ferry vessels, or anywhere on the campus such as parking lots, sidewalks, or other outdoor venues.

Signage prohibiting smoking and tobacco use on all company property (inside and outside) will be prominently displayed at all Authority facilities. The policy will be posted on the Authority website and on employee bulletin boards.

Prior to the adoption of this new policy, the Authority permitted smoking at a limited number of designated locations at the Delaware Memorial Bridge, Cape May- Lewes Ferry and at each of its airport facilities. Smoking has been banned inside all DRBA buildings and facilities since November 2002.

The Authority policy does not apply to freestanding commercial properties such as the Salem Business Center or to property leased to commercial tenants at its airport facilities. "We are encouraging our tenants to adopt the same policy," Meconi said. "but, we will allow our tenants to decide the smoking policy on their property."

About the Delaware River and Bay Authority

The DRBA, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962, owns and operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May- Lewes Ferry, and the Forts Ferry Crossing. The DRBA also manages corporate and aviation properties through its economic development powers - two airports in New Jersey (Millville Airport and Cape May Airport) and three in Delaware (New Castle Airport, Civil Air Terminal and Delaware Airpark). All DRBA operating revenues are generated through the bridge, ferry and airport facilities. For more information, visit www.drba.net.