

## The tobacco ban is ridiculous \*

**Source:** Indre Akershus Blad, January 6, 2010

Aursmoen: Gas station owner furious about the Health Directorate's order

With effect from 1 January this year, it is no longer allowed to have visible tobacco products in retail outlets.

Owner Frode Sletner by the YX gas station Aursmoen calls the Health Directorate's order a joke.

Sletner has now had to invest in a new drop down front cabinet for his cigarette and snus a new cabinet with gray glass to meet government requirements.

"Snus can be made invisible simply by making the refrigerator glass doors opaque. Snus without nicotine is regarded as an imitation of tobacco products and therefore also covered by the ban," the Directorate of Health states.

"I got away cheaply, there are others who have had more problems implementing this than me. Just think of what this costs for the industry in total," says the outspoken gas station owner Frode Sletner to Indre Akershus Blad.

The ban means that cigarette packages and snus boxes will no longer be visible in retail outlets.

"Who is targeted with this ban?"

Shop owners are still allowed to write "Behind these curtains hides tobacco and cigarettes" on the covers, which Sletner has done.

"I wonder who the ban is targeted towards. Smokers will buy the same amount of tobacco as before, regardless of the covering. I'm smoke free now, but I smoked myself for 38 years. When the package is empty, well, then go and get more. Non-smokers who are considering starting with nicotine do so for quite different reasons than when they happen to spot a tobacco product for sale in a store. The proposal is inconsistent and smells of state control," said an irritated Sletner.

He says that customers have responded with everything from amazement to laughter to shaking their heads.

"'The limit has been reached' and 'I will never vote Labor again', are recurring statements, customers just cannot believe this," says Sletner.

**Link:** [http://www.indre.no/lokale\\_nyheter/article4791684.ece](http://www.indre.no/lokale_nyheter/article4791684.ece)

\* (English translation)