

**THE NEW ITALIAN LEGISLATION ON TOBACCO
SMOKE AT THE WORKPLACES:
A RESEARCH ON THE FIRST HALF-YEAR OF
APPLICATION OF THE LAW**

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Introduction

- **In January 2005 article 51 of Italian Act 3/2003 has come into force.**
- **This article prohibit tobacco smoking in all Italian work environments.**
- **We evaluated the application of the law in the first six months.**
- **We also studied the changes occurred for the law in Italian workers' smoke habits.**

Methods

- We analyzed 587 private and public companies.
- We divided them into public or private companies.
- We divided them also in small (<20 workers) medium (20 – 99 workers) and big companies (>99 workers).

Methods

- The companies analyzed have been:

475 private and 112 public;

335 small, 167 medium sized, 85 big companies

Methods

We studied:

- the effective application of the prohibition;
- the designation in the firm of the responsible for the application of the law;
- the installation of the correct warning notices;

Methods

We also studied:

- the possible activation of a smoking room and the effective respect of technical specific required;
- the number of clashes caused by the law among workers and between them and the employers.

Results

- The law has been at least partially applied in 537 firms (91,5%).

The firms which completely have not activated the law are all small.

- We verified that 411 firms (70,0%) respected the law completely.

Results

- 501 firms (85,3%) placed correct warning notices;
- 436 firms (74,3%) designated correctly the responsible for the application of the law;
- Only 13 firms (all having more than 100 workers) installed smoking rooms.

Results

- Clashes have been reported only in 105 firms (17,9%) mostly among workers (91,0%).
- Clashes have been reported mostly in big firms (75,3%) and in medium size firms (22,4%).

Discussion

- The results have shown that the new law has been largely applied in Italian firms.
- Only in a relevant part of small firms the law is not applied or only partially applied.
- This fact is surely due to little knowledge of the recent laws so frequent in familiar of artisanal firms.

Discussion

While the warning notes have been placed mostly correctly, a relevant percentage of firms have not defined the responsible for the application of the law and this could be fined

Discussion

- Only very few firms have decided to activate specific smoking rooms.
- These few firms have been all big firms in which the smokers' number is higher.
- The motivation of this fact are the cost of the smokers rooms and the severe technical specifics imposed by the law.

Discussion

- The small number of clashes reported in the research have been a real surprise.
- We imagined to find a relevant number of clashes especially between employers and employees.
- On the contrary the few clashes reported have been found mostly among workers and have been easily solved.

Discussion

- This fact have been explained considering that the real majority of workers are not smokers workers and therefore the law has allowed them to force the smokers to adequate themselves to the new rules.

Discussion

- A first evaluation of the attitude of Italian workers to the cigarette smoke after the promulgation of the new law seems to show a relevant reduction in number of smokers but especially in the number of cigarettes smoked by every worker every day.
- These data must be confirmed in evaluations carried out in larger periods of observation.

Conclusions

- We can say that after only six months the application of the law is largely satisfactory.
- We have been found a large attention from the employers in the application of the law
- We have found, frequently among the smokers too, a large satisfaction for the new law among the workers.

Conclusions

- We think that the application of the law in Italian firms will improve in next months.
- At last, on Italian experience, we suggest an application of such a law also in the countries in which a specific law concerning the tobacco smoke at the workplaces is not active.