

# Testing of tobacco and related products

Practical guidance for countries  
in the South-East Asia Region



World Health  
Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR South-East Asia



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Testing of tobacco and related products – Practical guidance for countries in the South-East Asia Region

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## Preface

Despite being a major public health threat for several decades, tobacco and related products remain largely unregulated or underregulated in most Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia (SEA) Region. The limited progress in the area of tobacco product regulation can largely be attributed to inadequate testing and analysis of tobacco and other products, primarily due to a lack of requisite resources and/or technical understanding at the disposal of these countries.

Over the years, WHO has repeatedly emphasized the utmost importance of testing and regulation of tobacco and tobacco products as a seminal step towards controlling the ever-growing tobacco epidemic. In the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), Articles 9 and 10 elaborately deal with these aspects of tobacco control. The *Handbook on tobacco product regulation*, published by WHO in 2018, further articulates these resolves in a comprehensive manner.

In continuation with its ongoing commitment to assist its Parties and Member States in meeting their obligations under Articles 9 and 10 of the WHO FCTC, the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia has come up with this practical guidance document. This document aids countries in the SEA Region to strengthen their tobacco-control policies through initiation and adoption of WHO-approved testing protocols of the contents and emissions of tobacco products. The document also provides guidance on testing betelnut products and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Testing of these products in the Region would contribute to the evolving body of knowledge and help regulators to better understand the chemical composition and possible effects of these products. The document aims to support and expedite tobacco testing efforts

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