**Electronic Cigarette Merchant Fact Sheet**

**What are electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes or e-cigs)?**

E-cigarettes are a type of **Electronic Nicotine Delivery System** (ENDS) that often look similar to cigarettes. They are made of three parts:

1. A cartridge which contains nicotine,
2. A vaporizer,
3. A battery.

When used, a battery powers the vaporizer that heats the nicotine mixture which the user then inhales as a vapor. This can also be known as “vaping.” There is usually an indicator light that looks like the burning end of a cigarette. Many brands of electronic cigarettes, though not all, are owned by big tobacco companies, and are being heavily marketed in the retail environment.

**Are e-cigarettes safe?**

E-cigarettes should **not** be recommended for customers to quit smoking or as a safer alternative to smoking. Although they are marketed as a safe alternative to cigarettes, these claims are untested.

- **E-cigarettes are not currently regulated by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA).** The FDA makes sure all foods and drugs are safe for use.
- **E-cigarettes are also not tested to help people quit smoking.**

**Do I need a Philadelphia Tobacco Retailer Permit to sell e-cigarettes?**

- **YES,** merchants must obtain a tobacco permit to sell electronic cigarettes in Philadelphia.

**Do I need a license from the State Department of Revenue to sell e-cigarettes?**

- **NO,** a cigarette license is not required by Pennsylvania to sell electronic cigarettes.

For more information visit [http://www.phila.gov/health/permitsForms.html](http://www.phila.gov/health/permitsForms.html)