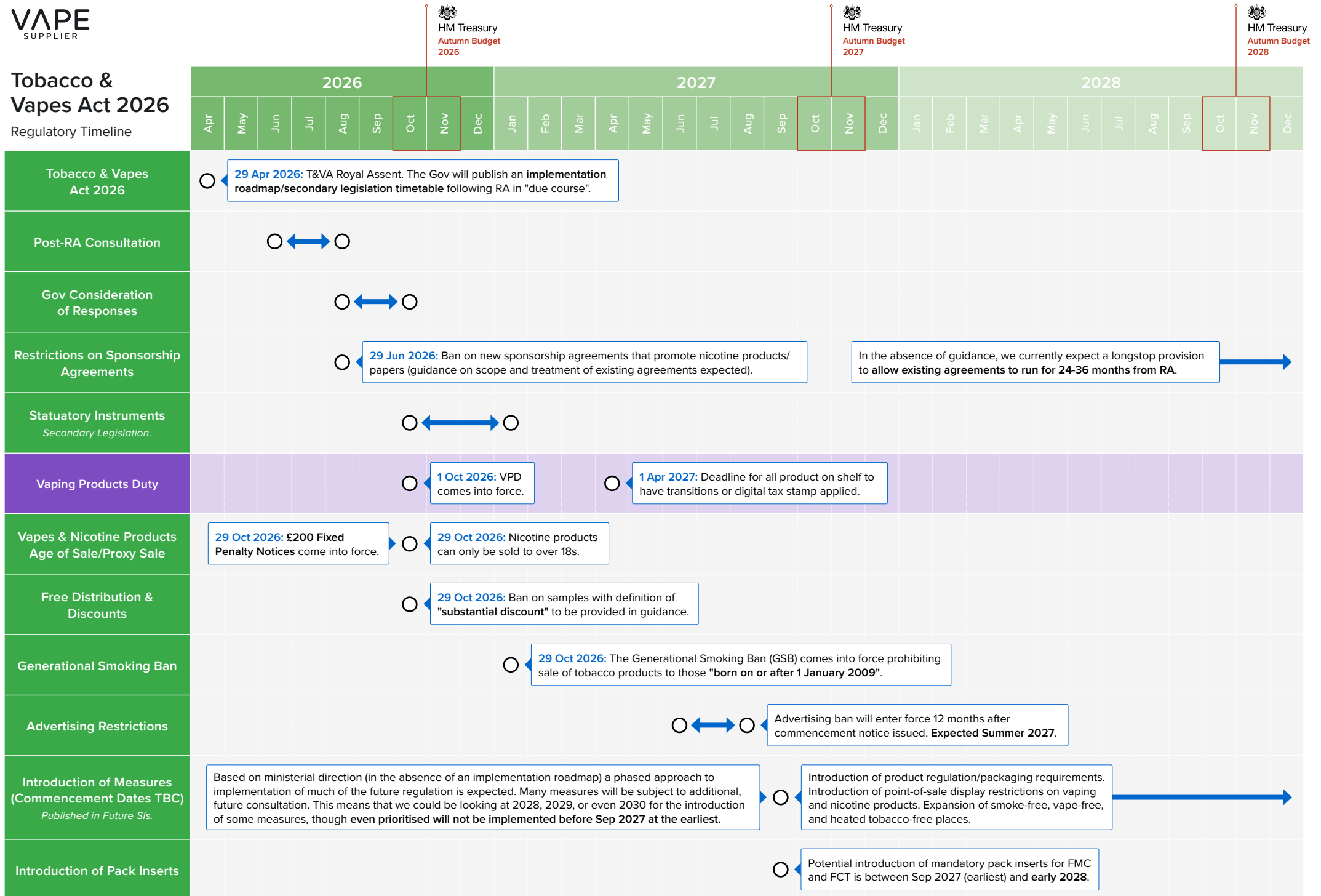


Tobacco & Vapes Act 2026

Regulatory Timeline



HM Treasury
Autumn Budget
2026

HM Treasury
Autumn Budget
2027

HM Treasury
Autumn Budget
2028

Area	Date	Scope	Retailer Impact	Further Guidance Expected
Definition Changes of Tobacco <i>incl. Heated Tobacco.</i>	29 Apr 2026	<i>Tobacco (expanded definition to include HTP).</i>	Heated tobacco consumables now fall within the legal definition of a tobacco product impacting how HTP can be displayed and promoted in store in line with existing tobacco display rules.	-
Enforcement & Sanctions <i>incl. Fixed Penalty Notices.</i>	29 Oct 2026	<i>Tobacco, herbal smoking, vaping and nicotine products (including papers). Filters excluded unless extended via SI.</i>	Retailers will face on-the-spot £200 FPNs for specified breaches, including age-of-sale and other compliance offences, alongside existing criminal sanctions.	Potentially <i>Operational use, discretion etc.</i>
Retail Restrictions <i>e.g. age of sale, free distribution, discounts, vending machines, etc.</i>	29 Oct 2026	<i>Tobacco, herbal smoking, vaping and nicotine products (including papers). Filters excluded unless extended via SI.</i>	Restrictions on promotional activity, multi-buy offers and samples, with details subject to Government guidance. These measures will also prohibit under-18 sales of nicotine products including pouches.	Yes <i>For example definition of "substantial discount".</i>
Sponsorship	Post SI <i>Likely 2027</i>	<i>Tobacco, herbal smoking, vaping and nicotine products (including papers). Filters excluded unless extended via SI.</i>	Prohibition of sponsorship agreements. <i>Scope and timings subject to Government guidance.</i>	Yes <i>Specified date and treatment of agreements pre-dating 29 June.</i>
Generational Smoking Ban <i>incl. Proxy purchasing.</i>	1 Jan 2027	<i>Tobacco products, herbal smoking products and cigarette papers.</i>	Retailers will need to apply rolling age checks for tobacco sales	Yes <i>Age verification/signage.</i>
Advertising & Promotion Full Regime	Summer 2027 <i>SI expected to give 12 months notice.</i>	<i>Tobacco, herbal smoking, vaping and nicotine products (including papers). Filters excluded unless extended via SI.</i>	Prohibition of advertising and promotion of vaping and nicotine products, potentially affecting in-store communications and brand visibility.	Yes <i>Scope, POS etc.</i>
Product Standards <i>Flavours, packaging, ingredients, device features.</i>	Sep 2027 <i>Earliest</i>	<i>Tobacco products and tobacco related devices, herbal smoking, vaping and nicotine products (including papers and filters).</i>	Future regulations, subject to consultation, could affect product formats, flavour descriptors, packaging designs, and device specifications.	Yes <i>Post consultation.</i>
Point of Sale Displays <i>Vaping, nicotine products and prices.</i>	Sep 2027 <i>Earliest</i>	<i>Tobacco (existing rules); vaping & nicotine products (future regulation). Papers included. Filters could be added.</i>	Future restrictions, subject to consultation, may affect how vaping and nicotine products and pricing information can be displayed in stores and behind gantries.	Yes <i>Display rules, visibility, devices vs consumables.</i>
Smoke-free, vape-free, and heated tobacco-free places	2027+	<i>Use-based: tobacco, vaping, HTP.</i>	Businesses may need to update policies and signage if vape-free or heated tobacco-free restrictions are extended to additional locations. Consultation closed 8th May 2026.	Yes <i>Scope, signage etc.</i>
Product Registration Scheme	2027+	<i>Tobacco, herbal smoking, vaping and nicotine products (including papers and filters).</i>	New registration framework likely to require manufacturers and importers to submit product information before products may be supplied to retailers.	Yes <i>Scope of products, data requirements, UK-wide alignment.</i>
Retail Licensing Scheme	2027 to 2028	<i>Tobacco, herbal smoking, vaping and nicotine products (including papers).</i>	Retailers will likely in future require a licence to sell tobacco, vaping or nicotine products, potentially subject to fees and compliance conditions. Requirements may differ across the UK.	Yes <i>Coverage, fees, local vs national etc.</i>
Future Product Scope <i>Bringing new products into regime.</i>	Case-by-Case	<i>Explicit power to extend regime beyond core categories (including filters).</i>	Additional products could be brought into scope of the regime in future, potentially extending compliance requirements to new categories.	Yes <i>If required to cover further categories in the future.</i>