



Memorandum # 23/2003

Commonwealth of Massachusetts | Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Retirement Boards

FROM: Joseph I. Martin, Deputy Executive Director

RE: Tobacco Company List

DATE: July 9, 2003

On October 22, 1997 PERAC Memo #37/1997 informed you of the adoption of Chapter 119 of the Acts of 1997. That statute prohibits retirement systems from making any new investments in stocks, securities, or other obligations of any company which derives more than 15% of its revenue from the sale of tobacco products. On December 18, 1997 PERAC sent Memo #48 regarding the implementation of Chapter 119 and the first Tobacco Company List.

Enclosed please find a Tobacco Company List dated July 1, 2003. This list replaces any other Tobacco Company List previously sent to your board and is effective upon receipt by the retirement boards. Most of these companies appeared on previous lists and such investments were prohibited from the time the companies first appeared on the list. Please forward a copy to your investment advisors or inform them that this list is available on the PERAC Home Page under the Investment Unit's 2003 Memo Index.

As part of its audit process, PERAC will assess the portfolio of each board to determine compliance. That review will determine if the board, after January 13, 1998, has purchased stock, securities, or other obligations of any company which derives more than 15% of its revenue from the sale of tobacco products. In the event a portfolio is not in compliance, the board must bring the portfolio into compliance by divesting in a prudent manner. Prior to taking any action, the board shall consult with PERAC.

In applying the statute to pooled funds, PERAC will assess the 15% rule against the entire pool as the board is purchasing shares in the pool not the individual holdings of the pool. Thus a pooled fund, if in violation of this standard, will be included on the list.

If you have any questions, please call Robert Dennis, Investment Director at 617-666-4446 ext. 922.