



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 2

ŠKODA AUTO becomes a smoke-free company today

- › The Czech car manufacturer introduces a smoking ban on all its sites and premises today
- › The smoking ban ties in with strict measures to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 and is in line with the global trend in industrialised countries
- › As a non-smoking company, ŠKODA AUTO supports employees in giving up smoking; employee health is one of the carmaker's priorities

Mladá Boleslav, 1 September 2021 – ŠKODA AUTO is a completely smoke-free company as of today. The smoking ban applies across all sites and premises. The brand is thus building on the extensive measures introduced to protect the health of its employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. This smoking ban underscores ŠKODA AUTO's responsibility as an employer that cares about the health of its employees and is aware of the environmental and financial impacts of smoking. The new measures have been developed in cooperation with the KOVO trade union. In addition, the car manufacturer works with the Škoda Employee Insurance (Zaměstnanecká pojišťovna Škoda) and other health insurers to cover the costs of cessation therapy.

The company has gradually been restricting smoking in the workplace for more than twenty years; the first bans applied to all indoor spaces, later followed by certain outdoor areas. After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, ŠKODA AUTO implemented more than 80 measures to prevent the spread of the disease, including a company-wide no-smoking rule.

Effective as of today, designated smoking areas have been abolished across all ŠKODA AUTO sites. The measures taken to create a smoke-free company have been developed in collaboration with the KOVO trade union, with the goal of making the working environment more pleasant for all employees, most of whom do not smoke and ensuring maximum employee health protection. The no-smoking rule applies across all plants and sites in the Czech Republic; the brand's Indian-based plants in Pune and Aurangabad are already smoke-free.

To coincide with its transition to a non-smoking company, ŠKODA AUTO has prepared detailed information for employees who decide to quit smoking. Anyone interested can find clear and concise information on the risks of smoking both for smokers themselves and those around them. Doctors and cessation experts agree that quitting smoking is beneficial to human health at any age.

ŠKODA AUTO has long been supporting employees who decide to quit smoking through its Lungs Matter programme, which includes nicotine replacement therapies and professional counselling. ŠKODA AUTO bears the costs of such initiatives along with health insurers in particular the Škoda Employee Insurance (Zaměstnanecká pojišťovna Škoda).



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Page 2 of 2

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Logo:



ŠKODA

ŠKODA AUTO brand logo

Current brand logo of the car manufacturer ŠKODA AUTO since 2016.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs more than 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.