

Age Restricted Sales - Fireworks



Age Restricted Sales

What does the Law Say?

- It is an offence to sell fireworks (including sparklers) to anyone under the age of 18.
- It is an offence to sell caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, serpents and throwdowns to anyone under 16.
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in possession of adult fireworks in a public place. (The term adult firework applies to all fireworks except party poppers, sparklers, throwdowns, caps and novelty matches).

Other rules relating to the sale of fireworks

- The supply of certain powerful fireworks to the general public has been banned. These include: aerial shells, aerial maroons, mini-rockets and fireworks with erratic flight.
- Fireworks must be sold in their original manufacturer's packaging, and must not be split and sold separately.
- Packets of sparklers must carry the warning "Not to be given to children under 5 years of age".
- Fireworks intended for public use must comply with BS7114
- It is illegal to display for sale or sell fireworks outside the following periods, unless a special licence has been granted by Trading Standards:
 - Between 15th October and 10th November
 - Between 26th December and 31st December
 - The first day of Chinese New Year and 3 days prior
 - Diwali and 3 days prior

Statutory Notices

- Suppliers of fireworks must display a notice of A3 size with character size 16mm stating that:
 1. It is illegal to sell adult fireworks to anyone under the age of 18, and
 2. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess adult fireworks in a public place.

What can I do to prevent illegal sales of fireworks?

- Please refer to the sheet entitled Preventing Underage Sales for further information relating to the prevention of illegal sales of age restricted products.
- Always remember that if you are unsure of a person's age, ask for proof of age. If you are still in doubt, refuse the sale.

What are the penalties for breaking the law?

- You can be fined up to £5,000 and/or serve six months imprisonment for selling fireworks to a child under 18 years old

Who Enforces the law?

Trading Standards are responsible for enforcing the law on illegal sales of fireworks. For further assistance call Cardiff Trading Standards on 029 2087 2059.

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