

Information Sheet - Cigarettes and tobacco products



Age Restricted Sales

What does the law say?

- It is an offence to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18*
- It is an offence to break open a packet of cigarettes and to sell single cigarettes from it to anyone, child or adult
- You must display the following statutory tobacco warning in a prominent position in the shop that is clearly visible to customers:

It is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18*

Vending machines must display the following notice:

This vending machine is only for the use of people aged 16* or over

*From October 2007 the minimum age at which cigarettes can be purchased will be going up to 18.

What can I do to prevent illegal sales of cigarettes?

- Please refer to the sheet entitled *Preventing Underage Sales* for further information relating to the prevention of illegal sales of age restricted products.
- Think carefully about the location of tobacco vending machines. You should ensure that it is in a position where a member of staff can clearly see who is using it. Do not put it in a place where it will be hidden away out of sight and where underage children may have access to it.

What are the penalties for breaking the law?

- If you are caught selling cigarettes or tobacco products to a person under the age of 16* you could be prosecuted and fined up to £2,500
- Failure to display a statutory notice can lead to a fine of up to £1,000
- The sale of single cigarettes could lead to a fine of up to £1,000

Who enforces the law?

Trading Standards Officers are responsible for enforcing the law on illegal sales of aerosol paints. If you require further assistance call Cardiff Trading Standards on 029 2087 2059.

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