



The Manager
Junction Stop
2 Broxholme Lane
Wheatley
Doncaster
DN1 2LJ

Contact: Trading Standards
Tel: 01302 737560
Fax: 01302 737038
E-mail: Trading.standards@doncaster.gov.uk
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Dear Retailer

You may be aware that South Yorkshire is currently experiencing an increase in the availability of illegal alcohol (including beer/lager) and tobacco products. This letter is to make you aware of the risks to health, the illegality of selling such products and the penalties which, can be imposed if a trader is found guilty of dealing in such products.

All tobacco products contain toxic ingredients such as arsenic, formaldehyde, benzene, and cadmium but counterfeit tobacco products often contain far higher quantities of these ingredients. Smoking is recognized as a serious health hazard; however the smoking of counterfeit cigarettes greatly increases the potential for personal health damage.

Fake alcohol may contain methanol, chloroform, nail polish remover, cleaning products or automobile screen wash. Drinking fake alcohol may cause nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain and dizziness and can lead to kidney and liver problems. Methanol, found in fake vodka, can cause permanent blindness.

Counterfeit or illegal alcohol and tobacco products will be offered for sale at approximately half the normal UK retail selling price. This would also suggest that the appropriate UK excise duty has not been paid on the product which deprives the country of revenue (tax) which is required to maintain services such as health and education.

If you are offered such products to sell in your premises you must refuse them. You should only purchase tobacco and alcohol (including beer/lager) products from reputable suppliers and not from any "white vans" or unknown sources. All foreign labeled beer/lager must be supplied from the wholesaler with the correct English labels. If they do not provide the labels, do not purchase the products. Every food item (including beer/lager) should be labeled in English, large enough to read and printed in indelible ink. For further information on food labeling requirements please visit the Food Standards Agency website (www.food.gov.uk).

Locally produced or imported beer/lager must pay a "permitted duty price". At present the permitted duty price is the minimum price the product can be sold legally and does not include any transport cost, manufacturing cost or retailer profit. Officers will be concentrating on cheap alcohol which is being sold without the correct duty being paid. Selling alcohol above the permitted price does not mean that alcohol duty has been paid. It is an indicator of possible illicit trade but mainly is enforced to prevent a high consumption of strong alcohol on a regular basis.

For example the minimum "permitted price" for beer/lager is as follows:

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Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BU

- **5.5% alcohol = 0.61p per 500ml can (case of 24 = £14.64)**
- **7.5% alcohol = £1.08 per 500ml can (case of 24 = £25.92)**
- **9.0% alcohol = £1.29 per 500ml can (case of 24 = £30.96)**

Please refer to your alcohol licence for more detail.

It is illegal to sell fake alcohol and tobacco.

It is illegal to sell alcohol and tobacco without the correct labeling in English.

It is illegal to sell beer/lager that has not been purchased from a legitimate supplier and cannot be traced through legitimate receipts.

It is illegal to sell alcohol and tobacco to children under 18 years of age.

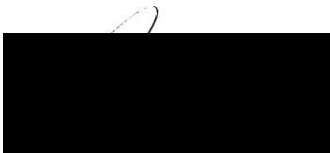
It is illegal to sell alcohol without the correct licence.

If a premises is found to be involved in the storage or sale of “smuggled and none duty paid alcohol” the authority will review and may revoke a trader’s licence to sell alcohol.

The maximum penalty for a person found guilty of an offence under the legislation is an unlimited fine, and/or a term of imprisonment to a maximum of 10 years. In addition, any illegal products may be removed from your premises and subsequently destroyed.

If you have any questions about this matter or wish to pass information about someone selling alcohol and tobacco illegally please contact Doncaster Trading Standards on 0345 040506 or Doncaster Environmental Health on 01302 737560.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Mr D McMurdo.

Mr D McMurdo
Trading Standards Manager

Doncaster Council
Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster DN1 3BU