

Community Protection
Trading Standards
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Date

Dear Sir/Madam,

**General Product Safety Regulations 2005
E-Cigarettes – Safety Information**

In the last year some potential dangers concerning electronic cigarettes have become apparent. As a retailer of this type of product, it is your legal duty to ensure that all goods sold are safe and that sufficient instructions for their safe use are provided.

The main areas of concern are as follows:

- E-cigarettes generally use a lithium battery as a power source. Some of these batteries have been manufactured without cut off devices that prevent over charging. This has resulted in devices over heating; exploding & catching fire and has ultimately caused death.
- Nicotine in liquid form within the e-liquid is toxic. Nicotine is able to be absorbed through the skin – even relatively low doses of nicotine in this form can be fatal to small children and pets. Symptoms of nicotine poisoning include, vomiting, nausea and difficulty breathing.

It is recommended that you clearly inform customers to these dangers of electronic cigarettes. A poster is attached for you to display to ensure that your customers know how to use e-cigarettes safely.

E-liquids/Cartridges

Nicotine is a harmful substance and e-liquids or pre-filled disposable cartridges which contain it are covered by legal safety provisions. E-liquids and cartridges supplied from reputable sources will have their packaging clearly marked with the following information:

- CAUTION
- Keep out of reach of children and pets
- Nicotine concentration in weight per volume (w/v); percentage volume (%/v) and/or milligrams per Kilolitre (mg/Kl)
- Only for use in/with electronic cigarettes
- Seek medical advice if you feel unwell
- May contain traces of [allergen]
- Batch number

Power Adaptors

If you supply power adaptors they must be safe and comply with **The Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994, The Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994** and **The Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulations 2006**. They must be marked with the following:

- CE mark,
- The name or trademark of the manufacturer or responsible supplier,
- Unique identifier e.g. model, type, batch or serial no,
- The rated voltage(s), power, current and frequency

Products from within the EU

If you source your products from within the EU you have a responsibility to check that this information is on the products you sell. We would also advise you to see the safety documentation before you sell the products.

Products from outside the EU

If you import goods directly into the UK from outside the EU, you are responsible for the safety of the product and the CE marking. You must keep a Technical File detailing the steps you have taken to ensure the items are safe, including test certificates. We recommend that you arrange for appropriate, independent testing of samples taken from delivered consignments before placing the goods on the market. The European Commission is bringing in further requirements for E-cigarettes containing nicotine from 2016. Details can be found at <http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-14-134 en.htm>

I hope that this advice is helpful. It represents our current view of the law that we have a responsibility to enforce and is based upon information supplied. I am sure you understand, however, that only the Courts can give an authoritative interpretation and you may, therefore, feel it appropriate to seek other independent legal advice as the responsibility for complying with the law must rest with you.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Enforcement Officer