

# Age-restricted goods

## A guide for retailers

age check ✓

This guide has been prepared to assist retailers and other interested parties to meet the requirements of the law relating to the sale of age restricted goods such as cigarettes, alcohol and lottery tickets. It is not an exhaustive document but does cover the main points that you should be mindful of.

## The Law

### Cigarettes and tobacco products

18+

It is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. Tobacco products include cigarettes, tobacco, oral (chewing) tobacco and cigarette papers. Matches are not included.

You must display a notice stating "It is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 16". This must be of a certain size. Trading standards can provide you with a free notice to display.

If you sell cigarettes from a vending machine, you must ensure that no one under the age of 18 uses the machine. You should place the machine in an area where it can be supervised. There should be a notice on the machine stating "This machine is only for the use of people aged 18 or over". This must be of a certain size. Trading standards can provide you with a free sticker to display.

Cigarettes must be sold in their original packaging and it is an offence to split packs in order to sell cigarettes singly.

### Lottery tickets and scratch cards

16+

It is illegal to sell any lottery ticket or scratchcard to anyone under 18. It is also illegal to allow anyone under 16 to sell a lottery ticket.

### Cigarette lighter refills and solvents

18+

It is illegal to sell lighter refills and solvents to anyone under 18.

### Fireworks

18+

It is illegal to sell fireworks to anyone under 18. The only exceptions to this are those products named below. They must not be sold to anyone under 18.

### Caps. party poppers. novelty matches, throwdowns

16+

It is illegal to sell these to anyone under 16.

### Aerosol Spray Paints

18+

It is illegal to sell aerosol spray paints to anyone under 18.

### Alcohol

18+

The law relating to sales of alcohol is very rigorous. The main principle is that alcohol must not be sold to, delivered to, or supplied to anyone under 18.

