

Is your child's clothing safe?

If you are a manufacturer, importer or retailer of children's clothing, here are a few simple points you should consider.

Drawstrings, functional cords and decorative cords:

- Garments for young children (up to 7) must not have drawstrings or decorative cords, as they pose a risk of strangulation.
- Ages 10-14 - cords and strings from the waist and lower edges of the clothing should not be long enough to get caught in moving vehicles or caught on a bicycle.
- Functional decorative cords in the waist area shall be a maximum of 140mm
- Sashes shall not hang below the hem when untied.
- All ages - no cord shall protrude by more than 140mm when the garment is opened to its largest.



Most nightwear for children up to 13 must meet flammability performance requirements. There are also specific labelling requirements.

Young children may swallow buttons and other foreign bodies, inhale them or push them into body cavities such as the nose and ear. Check they are not loose.

All children's clothing should be safe, if you have any queries regarding the above please contact the Trading Standards Service – details below.

How to Contact Us

Business Advice

Confidential, free advice on all trading standards matters including help for you to solve your consumer complaints. We can also help you to access available Rural Business Grants

Telephone: (0116) 305 8000

Email: trading-standards@leics.gov.uk

www.leics.gov.uk/tradingstandards

www.askcedric.org.uk

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Trading Standards BUSINESS MATTERS

Issue No 3: October 2008 - January 2009



Up-to-date news for Businesses

Targeting Rogue Traders!

Are you aware of a business that is not doing things by the book? Does it make you angry when other businesses get away with flouting the law?

If so, you are not alone. A Department for Business study found that more than half of small businesses believed that their profits were adversely affected by the unfair trading practices of rivals.

The recently introduced Consumer Protection and Business Protection Regulations have given Trading Standards Officers the means to tackle a much wider range of unfair practices. Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards Service is therefore asking legitimate businesses and the public to assist them in their fight against rogue traders, by telling them what the rogue traders are up to and where they are.

So to make it easy to report unscrupulous traders, Trading Standards have re-launched the "rip off tip off" website. This site allows anyone to leave information in the strictest confidence, and anonymously if preferred. If you have useful information about a rogue trader, please use www.ripofftipoff.net to sort them out.



www.leics.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Closing in on **Aggressive Selling**

New consumer protection laws are in force which will help trading standards to tackle a wider range of unfair trading practices, including dealing with traders putting pressure on consumers in order to secure a deal.

This comes at a time when research from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Forum (BERR) reveals that most small businesses are affected by rivals using unfair sales practices. The study found that:

- 53% of small businesses think their profits are hit by rivals using unfair sales practices;
- of those who feel their profits are affected, one in ten estimate rogues are costing them more than a fifth of their revenue and 38% believe they are costing them between 10-20%.

A fifth of small business leaders have worked in an organisation that they felt used such practices and 12% of these had previously worked for a business that actively encouraged or trained them to deploy questionable tactics to make a sale.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Practices Regulations 2008 seeks to benefit honest businesses by simplifying consumer protection legislation, stamping out the rogues and establishing a modern framework fit for the 21st century.



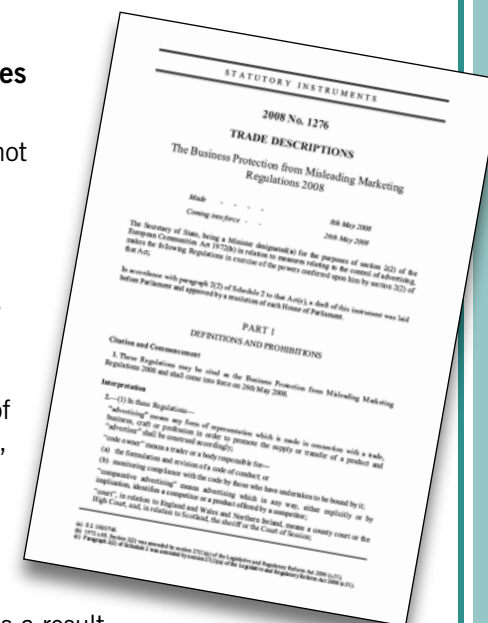
The Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations 2008

The Business Protection from Misleading Marketing Regulations consolidate existing laws and were introduced to cover business to business advertising and marketing, banning misleading indications and false comparative advertising.

These regulations specify that businesses should not:

- Compare products or materials that are not designed for the same purpose.
- Confuse traders as to the advertiser or competitor.
- Present imitations or replicas of products bearing a protected trade mark or trade name.
- Take unfair advantage of the reputation of a competitor's trade marks, trade names, other distinguishing marks or country of origin information.
- Mislead traders or consumers.

It is important that all businesses begin to review their business practices thoroughly, as a result of the introduction of the new rules, to ensure that they do not fall foul of any of the prohibitions.



If you would like free, practical help to ensure that you are working within the law, contact trading standards – details on the back page.