

Warwickshire Trading Standards Partner Update

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards tradingstandards@warwickshire.gov.uk

FSA warns about food safety risk from fake branded chocolate bars

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is warning members of the public not to buy or eat fake 'Wonka Bars' or 'Prime' chocolate bars for safety reasons.



This warning comes after it received reports of fake branded chocolate on sale at a Nottinghamshire market.

Fake branded chocolate bars may be unsafe to eat, as there is a possibility that they are being made or repackaged by unregistered businesses or by criminals who will not be following hygiene, labelling and traceability laws.

For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4f8nw9tp>

Almost 20,000 Illegal Vapes Seized by Trading Standards

In the past 18 months, Warwickshire Trading Standards has seized 19,600 illegal vapes from shops across Warwickshire.

The wholesale price of an oversized illegal vape is around £5, resulting in a direct loss to sellers of almost £100,000 to date.

Illegal disposable vapes, which are often sold under the counter, are

Thousands of counterfeit products seized in raid on North Warwickshire's Furnace End market

A raid carried out by Warwickshire Trading Standards together with brand industry representatives and Warwickshire Police led to the seizure of over 3000 of fake products.

Several stalls on Furnace End Market were targeted, including those selling counterfeit clothing, footwear, handbags, perfumes, cosmetics, electrical goods (phone accessories), illegal vapes and alcohol. The total seized is estimated to have had a value of £1.5 million if they had been genuine.

Warwickshire County Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety said:

“Not only do counterfeit products threaten the livelihoods of genuine businesses, including Warwickshire traders, but many fake goods also pose a significant health and safety threat to consumers.”



“Counterfeit cosmetics and perfumes can cause severe skin reactions; some may contain heavy metals. Fake electrical goods are unlikely to have been safety tested and may be poorly wired and pose an electrocution hazard. Products containing counterfeit lithium-ion batteries can produce extreme heat causing explosions and fires. Finally, fake alcohol may contain substances such as antifreeze, nail polish remover and even paint stripper.”

usually those that are advertised as containing more than 600 puffs, an indication that the vapes contains more nicotine e-liquid than the 2ml limit. The 2ml limit is designed to help prevent nicotine poisoning, the results of which include nausea, vomiting, and headaches.

Recently, Trading Standards Officers seized 2385 illegal vapes from one North Warwickshire shop alone!



Warwickshire County Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety said:

“Oversized illegal vapes may contain much more nicotine than a UK standard legal vape, so it’s important that we get them off the streets. Warwickshire Trading Standards will continue to both advise businesses and where necessary carry out enforcement exercises, both to remove illegal vapes and prevent the sale of vapes to under 18’s.”

Report the sale of illegal vapes to Warwickshire Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Cases of bluetongue detected in Kent and Norfolk



Bluetongue virus has been discovered in animals in Kent and Norfolk.

Bluetongue does not affect people or food safety. The virus is transmitted by midge bites and affects cows, goats, sheep and other camelids such as llamas. For some animals, the virus will affect their milk productivity etc. and in sever cases can be fatal. In others the virus may not be apparent at all.

You can find out more about how to spot and report this animal disease here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue>

“By seizing these products, we are protecting Warwickshire consumers and supporting genuine businesses.”

All counterfeit goods seized are recycled in a sustainable manner, for example used in the manufacture of animal bedding. Report the sale of counterfeit goods to Warwickshire Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Parliamentary Briefings



Highlights from news from across the political world with relevance to Trading Standards.

Regulators urge public to take care when donating to charity after £2.7m lost to fraudsters - <https://tinyurl.com/5fv7vztd>

Ofcom Top trends from our latest look at people's online lives - <https://tinyurl.com/2wxk9kxy>

House of Lords summary of the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill - <https://tinyurl.com/4hyn7ms9>

Trading Standards Business News



Welcome to the winter, 2023 edition of TSBN. As always it is packed with top tips, guidance and more in-depth articles. You will find useful guidance on food safety, including menu, descriptions, and allergens plus advice on hygiene ratings for businesses using outside caterers.

Articles include:

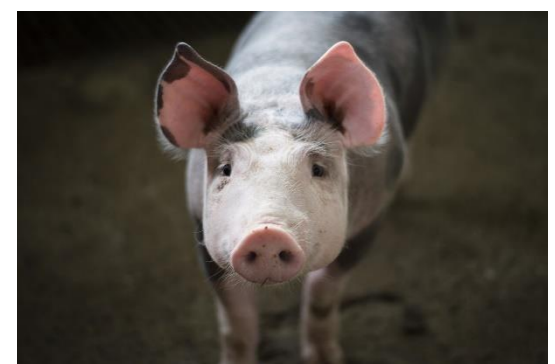
- Vape sales
- XL Bully update
- Building your business
- Selling fuel

Visit

<https://portfolio.cpl.co.uk/TSBN/2023-winter/cover/>



Swine Flu



Do you keep pigs, even just as pets...? Help to reduce the risk of African swine fever reaching pigs in the UK.

African swine fever is present in several countries in Europe as well as Asia and Africa. It has led to the death of millions of pigs worldwide. It is highly contagious and fatal to pigs and if it reached the UK it would be devastating to our commercial pig industry, smallholders and pet pig keepers alike.

It is illegal to feed pigs with catering waste or kitchen scraps as these can transmit African swine fever as well as other serious diseases such as foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever.

Help and advice is available: <https://tinyurl.com/crxb937r>