

Teacher's notes

Age Restricted Products

Legislation prohibits the supply (sale or hire) of specific products to persons under certain ages.

Ask students if they have any idea of what sort of products have restrictions placed on them, i.e. cigarettes, alcohol, see list below.

The following is a guide of age restricted products.

A table showing how old you have to be to buy certain products

PRODUCT	SUPPLY ONLY TO THOSE AGED:
Tobacco products	18 and over
Offensive weapons/knives	18 and over
Caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throwdowns	16 and over
Fireworks	18 and over
Videos, video and computer games: Classification 12	12 and over
Videos, video and computer games: Classification 15	15 and over
Videos, video and computer games: Classification 18	18 and over
Volatile substances/solvents	18 and over
Crossbows	17 and over
Airguns and pellets	17 and over
Lighter refills containing butane	18 and over
Lottery tickets/Instant Win cards	16 and over
Aerosol paint	16 and over
Alcohol	18 and over

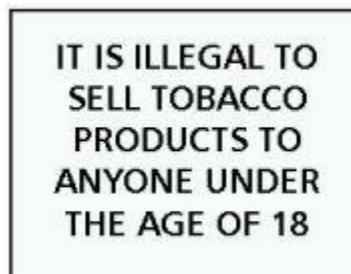
Some consumer laws restrict the sale of goods to certain people. Similar laws ban the sale of fireworks to under 18s, crossbows to under 17s and videorecordings to under 15s or under 18s, depending on the film's classification.

Judging a buyer's age

Always ask young people to produce proof of their age. Many local authorities support 'Proof of Age' card schemes; contact your local Trading Standards Department to find out which card operates in your area.

Photo driving licences and passports are also acceptable as proof of age. It is not an offence for children to buy cigarettes, only for you to sell them to children.

Ask the children where they may see a sign like the one below



Get students thinking about places that sell age restricted products such as supermarkets, off licenses, specialist shops, newsagents, pubs etc.

Advise students that traders have a responsibility to have up warning signs like the one above or they could be committing an offence and get into trouble with Trading Standards.

The Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997 (as amended)

These Regulations prohibit the supply of fireworks and assemblies to a person under the age of 18. The age limit remains at 16 for caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throwdowns, by virtue of the **Explosives Act 1875 (as amended)**.

The Fireworks Regulations 2004

These Regulations require that, where adult fireworks are supplied or exposed for supply in any premises, a notice is displayed in a prominent position in those premises, no less than 400mm by 300mm, with letters no less than 16mm high, giving the following information:

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO
SELL ADULT
FIREWORKS TO
ANYONE UNDER THE
AGE OF 18**

**IT IS ILLEGAL FOR
ANYONE UNDER THE
AGE OF 18 TO
POSSESS ADULT
FIREWORKS IN A
PUBLIC PLACE**

The Video Recordings Act 1984

It is an offence to supply, or offer to supply, a video recording to any person who has not attained the age specified on the recording. This legislation applies to video films, video games and computer games.

It is a defence to show that you neither knew, nor had reasonable grounds to believe, that:

- the classification certificate contained the statement in relation to the specified age, or
- the person concerned had not attained the specified age, or
- that you had reasonable grounds to believe that the supply was, or would have been, an exempted supply, as defined by legislation. If you sell video films by retail, you will not be dealing with exempted supplies.

The Classifications are as follows:

A table showing the Classifications regarding supply of recordings

ABBREVIATION	CLASSIFICATION	ONLY TO BE SOLD TO:
U	Universal	Unrestricted
Uc	Universal – particularly suitable for children	Unrestricted
PG	Parental Guidance – general viewing but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children	Unrestricted
12	Suitable only for persons 12 years and over	12 years and over
15	Suitable only for persons 15	15 years and over

	years and over	
18	Suitable only for persons 18 years and over	18 years and over
R18	Suitable only for persons 18 years and over	18 years and over in a licensed sex shop

Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985

An offence is committed under this legislation if volatile substances or solventbased products are sold, and it is believed that they are for a person under the age of 18, and that they are likely to be inhaled for the purposes of becoming intoxicated. This offence applies even when it is known that another person is buying the product for the person under the age of 18.

Special attention should be paid to young persons:

- buying volatile substances and nothing else;
- buying plastic bags at the same time as volatile substances;
- displaying signs similar to drunkenness;
- with spots and sores around the mouth and nose.

However, solvents may be sold to persons under 18 for their normal intended use.

The Cigarette Lighter Refill (Safety) Regulations 1999

It is an offence to supply cigarette lighter refill canisters containing butane to anyone under 18.

National Lottery, etc. Act 1993 National Lottery Regulations 1994

It is an offence to sell National Lottery (LOTTO) tickets and Instant Win cards (scratchcards) to any person under 16. The Regulations also require anyone selling such products to be 16 or over.

Licensing Act 2003

This is jointly enforced by the police and Trading Standards. It is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under 18, or for a person under 18 to sell alcohol. The seller, the licensee(s) and the company may be liable for this offence. The seller may also be issued with a fixed penalty fine of £80.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928

It may be a licensing condition that anyone in charge of a petrol station must be at least 18, and anyone dispensing petrol, or operating a petrol dispensing system, must be at least 16.

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

It is an offence to sell aerosol spray paint to persons aged under 16.
