

Trading Standards

Disposable Vapes & the Law

As the popularity of disposable vapes increases, there are a number of products on the market which do not comply with UK legislation. This guidance is intended to help you, as a retailer, identify those products and remove them from sale.

What Disposable Vapes Are Legal to Sell?

A Disposable Vape is likely to be a legal product if it has -

- A UK Name and address on the packaging to allow traceability.
- Tank capacity max. 2ml (this equates to approx. 600 - 1000 puffs)
- Nicotine strength not exceeding 20mg/ml (2%)
- Warning on the front and back surfaces of the packaging stating: **'This product contains nicotine which is a highly addictive substance.'** This wording must be exact and must cover 30% of the surface.
- One of the warning symbols below on packaging, depending on nicotine strength



Essex Trading Standards strongly recommends that to avoid further action being taken all non-compliant Disposable Vapes are removed from sale and returned to your supplier immediately.

Failure to follow this advice could result in;

- Seizure of products
- Prosecution, which could result in an unlimited fine or up to 3 months in prison for a summary conviction or on conviction on indictment up to 2 years in prison

The first prosecution in the UK

Recently the first prosecution for the sale of illegal disposable vapes resulted in two companies being fined a combined total of £10,786.

If you require further information detailed guidance can be found at www.businesscompanion.info

REMEMBER - it is illegal to sell vapes and vape liquid to anyone under the age of 18