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|  | **PRESS RELEASE** |

**Inspection results – pyrotechnic articles in 2020**

*(Final report of 2020)*

***(Prague, 15 February 2021)* In 2020, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority0 offered, sold and stored pyrotechnic articles. Act No. 206/2015 Coll., on pyrotechnic articles and their handling, imposes on traders the safe handling of fireworks, which could seriously endanger the health of the consumer in some cases. The CTIA carried out 140 inspections last year and found violations of this law in 23 cases. *"During the inspections, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority was also sales to minors who, according to this Act, do not have the possibility to purchase pyrotechnic articles due to the non-compliance with the required age limit. The use of pyrotechnic articles by juveniles poses a high risk to them and to their surroundings. The CTIA will continue these inspections in order to maximally prevent the sale of dangerous fireworks to juveniles,"* says Mojmír Bezecný, Director of the CTIA.**

Between 1 October and 31 December 2020, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority carried out inspections aimed at the offer, sale and storage of pyrotechnic articles. It carried out a total of 140 inspections and found infringements of the Act No. 206/2015 Coll., in the total of 23 cases.

Market monitoring has also confirmed the trend of reducing the number of entities selling fireworks as a part of complementary sales.

The issue of fireworks is further regulated by Act No. 206/2015 Coll., on pyrotechnic articles and their handling and on the amendment of certain laws (Pyrotechnics Act), which regulates the rules designed to achieve the free movement of pyrotechnic articles in the internal market, the essential safety requirements that pyrotechnic articles must meet before they are made available on the market, and other requirements to ensure the protection of human life, health, property, public safety, including the protection and safety of consumers, taking into account the interest in environmental protection.

Part of the inspection was the inspection of compliance with other legislation, in particular Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection, which was violated in 47 cases.

The Czech Trade Inspection Authority cooperated in two cases with the Police of the Czech Republic as a part of this inspection action.

The inspection activity was significantly influenced by the epidemiological situation and related measures of the Government of the Czech Republic, which had an impact on the reduction of the number of inspections, especially in ordinary stores.

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| **Inspectorate** | **Number of inspections** | **Inspections with findings** | **Findings in %** |
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| Středočeský and Prague | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Jihočeský and Vysočina | 14 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Plzeňský and Karlovarský | 20 | 13 | 65.0% |
| Ústecký and Liberecký | 41 | 12 | 29.3% |
| Královéhradecký and Pardubický | 17 | 4 | 23.5% |
| Jihomoravský and Zlínský | 30 | 10 | 33.3% |
| Olomoucký and Moravskoslezský | 18 | 5 | 27.8% |
| **Total** | **140** | **44** | **31.4%** |

**Deficiencies identified**

**Violations of Act No. 206/2015 Coll., on pyrotechnic articles and their handling** were detected in 23 cases, specifically:

* in 8 cases, the storage requirements for pyrotechnic articles were violated (Section 26 par. 1)
* in 5 cases, pyrotechnic articles of categories F1, F2 were sold to persons under the age required by law (Section 5 par. 1)
* in 3 cases, a breach of the provision on the storage and sale of pyrotechnic articles of category F1 was detected (§ 29 par. 1)
* deficiencies in the keeping of the register of stored pyrotechnic articles were identified in 3 cases (Section 26 par. 3)
* in 2 cases, the prohibition of certain activities in premises where pyrotechnic articles are stored was violated (Section 26 par. 4)
* in 2 cases, the provisions concerning the construction technical requirements for sales establishments and hand warehouses of pyrotechnic articles were violated (§ 26 par. 2)

**Violation of Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection**, was detected in 47 cases. The most common finding, in 14 cases, was the violation of the provisions of Section 12, when the consumer was not informed about the price of the products sold. The next most violated provision of the Consumer Protection Act, in 11 cases, was Section 3 par. 1 letter c) when product prices weren‘t correctly billed. Violations of other provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and other legislation were detected to a lesser extent.

**Measures imposed**

Based on the detected infringements, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority imposed 12 fines totalling CZK 40,500 between 1 October and 31 December last year.

During the inspection, event prohibited the sale of pyrotechnic articles in the number of 58 items with the total price amounting to CZK 3,936.

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Pyrotechnic articles of category F1 – they pose very little danger, have negligible noise levels, are intended for the use in restricted areas, including indoor use in residential buildings, and include sparklers, banging balls, cracking strings, etc., which can only be sold to persons above 15 years of age.

Pyrotechnic articles of category F2 - present a small danger and have low noise levels, are intended for outdoor use in restricted areas, include firecrackers, Roman candles, smaller rockets, smaller compacts, larger sparklers, Bengali fires, larger rotating objects, etc., this fireworks can only be sold to persons above 18 years of age.

Pyrotechnic articles of category F3 - present a medium-sized danger, are intended for outdoor use in open spaces and their noise level does not harm human health, are freely sold to persons who have reached the age of 21 or have obtained a certificate of professional competence pursuant to Section 37 of Act 206/2015 Coll.

Pyrotechnic articles of category F4 - present a great danger, they are intended for use only by persons with professional competence, their noise level does not harm human health.