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|  | **PRESS RELEASE** |

**In 2020, CTIA proved frequent sale of alcohol and tobacco to juveniles**

*(Final report of 2020)*

***(Prague, 22 March, 2021)* The Czech Trade Inspection Authority evaluated inspections of compliance with legal regulations within the sale of alcohol and tobacco. During 2020, it carried out a total of 5,382 inspections and found violations in almost 44%. *"Frequent breaches of the ban on the sale or serving of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 18, which were detected in 171 of 237 inspections with figurants, can be considered particularly serious. It is therefore clear that it is not a problem for persons under the age of 18 to purchase alcoholic beverages in the market network. Due to the high level of health risk posed by the consumption of alcoholic beverages especially to juveniles, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority will continue these inspections in 2021,"* says Mojmír Bezecný, Director of the Czech Trade Inspection Authority, on the conclusions of the inspections.**

Between 2 January and 31 December 2020, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority carried out 5,382 inspections aimed at the offer, sale and storage of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. The aim of the inspection action was to inspect the compliance with the legislation regulating the offer, sale and storage of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, in particular Act No. 65/2017 Coll., on Health Protection from the Harmful Effects of Drugs, Act No. 307/2013 Coll., on Mandatory Labelling of Spirits, and Act No. 353/2003 Coll., on Excise Duties. Furthermore, Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection, was inspected.

Violation of any of the provisions of Act No. 65/2017 Coll., on Health Protection from the Harmful Effects of Drugs, was detected in 288 cases.

Violation of Act No. 353/2003 Coll., on Excise Duties, was qualified in 6 cases.

Traders violated law in 2,329 inspections, which was 43.3% of all 5,382 inspections carried out.

Within the inspection action, persons under the age of 18 were invited to 237 inspections. Sales of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 18 were found in 171 cases.

The CTIA also cooperated with state administration authorities during these inspections, where 91 inspections were carried out with the participation of the Police of the Czech Republic, 122 inspections were in cooperation with the employees of trade licensing offices, 26 inspections in cooperation with members of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, 1 inspection in cooperation with the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, as well as 1 inspection in cooperation with the hygiene station.

The Czech Trade Inspection Authority was influenced in its activities by the epidemiological situation and related measures of the Government of the Czech Republic, which in 2020 had an impact on the reduction of the number of inspections carried out.

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| **Inspectorate** | **Number of inspections** | **Inspections with findings** | **Findigns in %** |
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| Středočeský and Prague | 766 | 453 | 59.1% |
| Jihočeský and Vysočina | 956 | 289 | 30.2% |
| Plzeňský and Karlovarský | 496 | 239 | 48.2% |
| Ústecký and Liberecký | 661 | 294 | 44.5% |
| Královéhradecký and Pardubický | 1,101 | 383 | 34.8% |
| Jihomoravský and Zlínský | 456 | 163 | 35.8% |
| Olomoucký and Moravskoslezský | 946 | 508 | 53.7% |
| **Total** | **5,382** | **2,329** | **43.3%** |

**Detected flaws**

Violation of any of the provisions of Act No. 65/2017 Coll., on Health Protection from the Harmful Effects of Drugs, was detected in 288 cases.

Most often, traders (255 cases) violated some provisions regarding the sale of alcohol. In particular, the following provisions were:

* in 171 cases, a breach of a provision prohibiting the sale or serving of an alcoholic beverage to a person under the age of 18 was found (Section 11 par. 5);
* in 78 cases, sellers did not display any clearly visible text on the prohibition of the sale of such beverages to persons under the age of 18 at the points of sale of alcoholic beverages to consumers, or this text was not made in a required version, i.e. in Czech, in black letters on a white background with the font size of at least 2 cm (§ 13 para. 1);
* to a lesser extent, in 6 cases, some other provision of this Act were breached.

Furthermore, traders (33 cases) breached certain provisions relating to tobacco sales, such as:

* in 9 cases, traders breached the prohibition of the sale or serving of tobacco products, herbal products intended for smoking and e-cigarettes and infringed the prohibition of the sale or use of smoking aids to a person under the age of 18 (Section 3 par. 4);
* in 8 cases, the seller did not ruled out the sale of these products to persons under the age of 18 when selling tobacco products, smoking equipment, herbal products intended for smoking and e-cigarettes by means of distance communication, or was not equipped with a computer system to clearly verify the age of the consumer, since the seller is obliged to verify at the moment of sale that the buyer is not under 18 years of age (Section 6 par. 1);
* in another 16 cases, some other provision of this Act were violated.

Violation of Act No. 353/2003 Coll., on Excise Duties, was seen in 6 cases where, for example, in 4 cases the sale of cigarettes to the final consumer was detected at a price higher than the price stated on the tobacco sticker (Section 112).

Violation of any of the provisions of Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection, was proven in a total of 2,666 cases. The most common infringements (1,099 cases) were failures to inform consumers of the price of the products and services offered (Section 12), in 864 cases it was a violation of the principles of fairness of sale (Section 3) or in 289 cases no proof of purchase of the products was issued, although the consumer requested it or they issued a document without the requirements (Section 16). Violations of other provisions of the Consumer Protection Act have been identified in smaller numbers.

In 102 cases, traders breached the Act No. 22/1997 Coll., on Technical Requirements for Products, as amended, Regulation (EU) No. 22/1997 of the European Parliament and of the Council. 1007/2011 textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of the fibre composition of textile products and repealing Council Directive 73/44/EEC and Directives 96/73/EC and 2008/121/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, and, in 74 cases, infringements of other legal regulations within the supervisory competence of the Czech Trade Inspection Authority were found.

Within some inspectionss, violations of several laws or individual provisions were detected at the same time.

**Imposed measures**

During this period, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority finally imposed 2,175 fines totalling CZK 24,834,100. For breaches of the obligations laid down by the special regulations, the inspection action imposed a ban on the sale of 3,780 pieces of products with a total value of CZK 204,642.70 and a ban on the use of 287 uncertified measuring instrukements that did not comply with generally binding legal regulations, technical standards, other technical regulations or an approved type.