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|  | **PRESS RELEASE** |

**Results of inspections on geo-blocking in 2020**

*(Final report of 2020)*

***(Prague, 22 March 2021)* Last year, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority focused on compliance with obligations arising from regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council on unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on nationality, place of residence or place of establishment of customers within the internal market. The CTIA carried out a total of 14 inspections in this area and detected breaches of the Regulation in 3 cases.**

In the period from 20 January 2007 to 31 December 2005, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority carried out 14 inspections focusing on the compliance with obligations of traders under Regulation (EU) 2018/302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2018 on addressing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market (geo-blocking).

In 3 cases, there was a suspicion of breaches of the compliance with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/302, concerning the prohibition of blocking or restricting access to the online interface/the prohibition of redirection without the customer's consent. In 1 case, there was a suspected breach of Article 4 of the Regulation (EU) 2018/302 concerning the prohibition of the application of different general terms and conditions for the access to goods and services. And in 1 case there was a suspected breach of Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2018/302 concerning the prohibition on the application of different conditions for payment transactions carried out by means of payment.

Within the inspection, the CTIA also examined the implementation of other legislation. Violation of any of the provisions of Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection, was proven in a total of 3 cases. In 2 cases, the sellers did not properly inform the consumer about the scope, conditions and method of making a claim, together with details of where the claim can be made (§ 13) and in 1 case, the seller did not inform the consumer in a clear, comprehensible and easily accessible manner about the entity of out-of-court settlement of consumer disputes (§ 14 para. 1).

The total number of infringements was found in 4 cases, i.e. 28.6%.

The CTIA inspection activities were significantly influenced by the epidemiological situation and related measures of the Government of the Czech Republic, which had an impact on the relatively low number of inspections carried out in 2020. As these are new obligations for sellers, a similar inspection action will take place in 2021.

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| **Inspectorate** | **Number of inspections** | **Inspections with findings** | **Inspections in %** |
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| Středočeský and Prague | 2 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Jihočeský and Vysočina | 2 | 2 | 100.0% |
| Plzeňský and Karlovarský | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Ústecký and Liberecký | 1 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Královéhradecký and Pardubický | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Jihomoravský and Zlínský | 4 | 2 | 50.0% |
| Olomoucký and Moravskoslezský | 4 | 0 | 0.0% |
| **Total \*** | **14** | **4** | **28.6%** |

\* in one case, a violation of the legislation in the supervisory competence of the CTIA was detected, but it was not geo-blocking (breaches of the geo-blocking regulation were detected in a total of 3 cases)

Geo-blocking - On July 4, 2019, the President of the Czech Republic signed an amendment to the Consumer Protection Act, which responds to a new European regulation prohibiting blocking purchases by buyer's country. The government order regulates the law to meet the requirements of the EU regulation. It aims to ensure that consumers wishing to purchase goods and services in another EU country, whether online or in person, are not discriminated against in terms of access to goods or services, price, conditions of sale or payment terms. Exceptions are cases justified for reasons such as VAT as well as certain legislation to protect the public interest.