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|  | **PRESS RELEASE** |

**Inspection results of sale and quality of solid fuels in 2020**

*(Final report of 2020)*

***(Prague, 29 March, 2021)* The Czech Trade Inspection Authority has carried out environmental inspections for a long time. In total, it carried out 29 inspections on operators marketing or offering the sale of solid fuels or developing commercial activities related to the sale of solid fuels.**

From 3 August to 30 November 2020, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority carried out a total of 29 inspections of natural and legal entities that market or offer the sale of solid fuels in the market of the Czech Republic. It also inspected entities that develop commercial activities in solid fuel sales and related services.

The aim of the control action was to verify the compliance with the obligations relating to the sale of solid fuels as set out in the Act No. 201/2012 Coll., on Air Protection, within the scope of qualitative indicators laid down by the implementing legislation on the Act, which is Decree No. 415/2012 Coll., on the permissible level of pollution and its detection, and on the implementation of certain other provisions of the Air Protection Act. Furthermore, the inspection action was aimed at fulfilling the obligations arising from the requirements for the compliance with the principles of fairness of sale and provision of services, compliance with the prohibition to use unfair commercial practices and fulfilment of information obligations in relation to the offered product range (Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection).

In particular these were brown coal and lignites, black coal and coal excerpts for combustion in a stationary source with a total rated thermal consumption of ≤ 0,3 MW or ˃ 0,3 – 5 MW.

Violations of legislation in the supervisory competence of the CTIA were detected in 7 economic operators in 10 cases. In 9 cases it was non-compliance with the obligations laid down by Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection. Most often, the infringement occurred when selling solid fuels, since the seller did not properly inform the consumer about the characteristics of the products sold and did not ensure that the products sold by him were clearly and comprehensibly marked with the manufacturer or importer or supplier. Furthermore, the seller did not fulfil the obligation to properly inform the consumer about the scope, conditions and method of exercising the right from the complaint, together with data on where the complaint can be made and did not inform the consumer in a clear, comprehensible and easily accessible manner about the entity of out-of-court settlement of consumer disputes. When selling weighted coal, the seller also used an uncertified gauge.

Within the inspection action, 14 brown coal samples were also taken and tested by an accredited laboratory. All samples tested met the requirements set out in Decree No. 415/2012 Coll., on the permissible level of pollution and its detection and on the implementation of certain other provisions of the Air Protection Act 201/2012 Coll. Although all tested coal samples complied with all test parameters, the quality inspection of solid fuels for stationary heat sources will continue in the second half of 2021, as compliance with the quality requirements of these fuels has an impact on the environment.

The Czech Trade Inspection Authority imposed fines amounting to the total of CZK 4,000 in 4 cases for breaches of Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection.