

Taking a Stand Against Illegal Sales: UKVIA Calls for Tougher Measures on Disposable Vaping Devices

The UK Vaping Industry Association (UKVIA) is taking a stand against the illegal sales of certain disposable vaping devices that contain nicotine concentrations exceeding the permitted limits. As the disposable vape sector experiences a significant resurgence, the UKVIA has discovered that illicit products are infiltrating the UK market through non-compliant distributors who manage to import and sell them, aided by a lack of proper scrutiny on major online marketplaces.

The Rise of Disposable Vapes

Disposable vapes have witnessed a remarkable revival in recent years, offering users a convenient and hassle-free vaping experience. These devices come pre-filled with e-liquids and are typically priced around £6 each. However, under UK regulations, disposable vapes should contain no more than 20mg/ml of nicotine. Shockingly, evidence collected by the UKVIA has exposed a disturbing trend—some products labeled as meeting the permitted limit actually contain higher nicotine concentrations, with certain options openly marketed and sold with a strength of 50mg/ml. Additionally, the packaging of these products fails to include the necessary warnings about nicotine content, which is a legal requirement.

The UKVIA's Efforts to Combat Illegal Sales

In response to the alarming situation, the UKVIA has initiated discussions with key regulatory bodies such as the Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Trading Standards. The MHRA oversees the regulation of [vape products](#), while Trading Standards ensures compliance within the vape industry, encompassing the sale of vape devices and e-liquids. Collaborating with these authorities, the UKVIA aims to address the issue of illegal disposable vape sales effectively.

To combat the problem, the UKVIA is actively engaged in providing guidance to its members regarding authorized distributors and approved [disposable vape products](#). Additionally, the association is undertaking an examination of vape shop licensing to secure necessary funds for enforcing compliance. Furthermore, the UKVIA is working closely with disposable vape manufacturers to ensure they are taking all possible measures to monitor and audit their distributors, thus minimizing the infiltration of illegal products into the market.

The UKVIA's Call for Stronger Enforcement

John Dunne, the director general at the UKVIA, emphasizes the urgency of robustly enforcing current regulations and intensifying efforts to "clean up" the disposable vapes market. The association stands ready to assist regulators and educate the industry on distinguishing between compliant and non-compliant products. However, Dunne clarifies that the responsibility for imposing penalties on those who violate the law lies with the regulators themselves.

The findings of the UKVIA's investigation paint a troubling picture. The influx of illegal and counterfeit disposable vape products poses a significant health risk to consumers. Moreover, some of these inappropriately branded products are intentionally marketed towards children, compounding the potential dangers associated with their use.

FAQs

- 1. What is the permitted nicotine concentration in disposable vapes according to UK regulations?** Under UK regulations, disposable vapes should not exceed 20mg/ml of nicotine.
- 2. Are there disposable vapes in the market with higher nicotine concentrations?** Yes, evidence collected by the UKVIA reveals that certain disposable vapes listed as meeting the permitted limit contain higher nicotine concentrations, with some products openly sold with 50mg/ml strength.
- 3. Why is the packaging of some disposable vapes lacking warnings about nicotine content?** Product packaging is legally required to include warnings about the nicotine content. However, some disposable vapes on the market fail to meet this requirement.

4. **Which regulatory bodies is the UKVIA collaborating with to address the issue of illegal sales?** The UKVIA is working in conjunction with the Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Trading Standards to tackle the problem of illegal disposable vape sales.

5. **What steps is the UKVIA taking to combat illegal sales of disposable vapes?** The UKVIA is providing guidance to its members regarding authorized distributors and approved disposable vape products. They are also examining the licensing of vape shops to allocate funds for enforcement. Additionally, the association is working with manufacturers to ensure thorough monitoring and auditing of distributors.