

Every retailer is aware of the dangers of knife crime and want to do all they can to prevent it. Adopting basic, but key, principles can make it easier for staff when selling such products.

The UK Government has published a voluntary agreement that was worked on in conjunction with major retailers in order to develop a set of principles they could all adopt in relation to the sale of knives.

We felt that the information contained in the agreement would be useful for our members and, as a result, have published details of the agreement below in the hope that following these guidelines will ultimately help reduce the impact of knife crime on independent businesses.

POLICY PAPER

Sale of knives: Voluntary Agreement By Retailers

- 1** Retailers will apply their policies for age restricted sales such as Think 21 or Challenge 25 to ensure age verification checks take place and knives will only be sold (or supplied) once they are satisfied the customer is 18 or over. This will include proof of age checks for in-store sales, collection or point of delivery situations.
- 2** Action will be taken in-store and online to remind customers and staff that knives are age-restricted products. This means that knives will only be sold (or supplied) once age verification to Think 21 or Challenge 25 has taken place. Supervisory support to be provided where appropriate.
- 3** Retailers will ensure knives are displayed and packaged securely, as appropriate, to minimise risk. This will include retailers taking practical and proportionate action to restrict accessibility and avoid immediate use, reduce the possibility of injury and prevent theft.
- 4** All staff selling or approving sales of knives will be provided with training, with that training being refreshed at least once every year. This includes all staff involved in the sales transaction up to and including delivery. The principles above will be applied as relevant to each retailer's business model in discussion with their Primary Authority.

Alongside this, the government will:

- 5** Identify what progress is being made by working with the police, trading standards, the Better Regulation Delivery Office (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/better-regulation-delivery-office>) and relevant codes to carry out test purchases at different retailers, feeding back results to retailers' head offices.
- 6** Introduce legislation to extend the Primary Authority scheme to knives as soon as Parliamentary time allows.
- 7** Explore the use of online identity exchange and Trust Elevate (<http://trustelevate.com/>) as a secure, reliable age verification tool for knife sales. Home Office officials have attended meetings hosted by the British Retail Consortium and we are waiting to see if retailers consider this an effective tool for age verification.

This policy paper is available to view at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers>

You may already have procedures in place, however, it can do no harm to adopt some or all of these principles to strengthen your own procedures as well as maintaining your role as a responsible retailer.

RETAILER SIGNATURE: