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Affinity Partner: CBE



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23% VAT must be applied to mass cards

We would like to once again remind members that, regardless of whether your mass card supplier has applied VAT on the product, retailers must apply 23% (standard rate) VAT on the selling price of the cards, similar to all other greeting cards.

Whilst it is technically possible to consider that the product has as many as three different VAT rates that could make up the VAT components (the card, the name-taking service and the actual stipend to the cleric), we believe that unless all of these elements were individually listed on your



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distributor/supplier invoice and documentary evidence provided to show the successful carrying out of each aspect of the service, it would be administratively difficult and not cost-effective to seek alterations to the existing (VAT @ 23%) role.

National Lottery announces changes to agent network

The CSNA has asked Premier Lotteries Ireland (PLI) to clarify a number of queries that the association has posed following a briefing that we received recently from PLI.

It is the intention of PLI to grant 'agency' status to outlets with Payzone, PostPoint and An Post Riposte systems from October. These outlets will be invited to stock a limited range of



National Lottery

scratch cards and their terminals will have access to a limited number of Lotto products.

The association has requested further detail on a number of legal and commercial points.

We have been assured that no existing agents in outlets that have a Post Office attached will be migrated to the An Post network.

Once we have clarification on these matters, we will seek engagement with members to consider our approach.

Tobacco licencing: It hasn't gone away

During the course of a recent Morning Ireland RTÉ Radio Interview, the Minister for Health Simon Harris asserted his intention to implement a very wide-ranging series of measures of tobacco control, designed to further the self-appointed role of Ireland as leader in the field of anti-tobacco legislation.

Whilst this may seem to many to be not only a reasonable and desirable aspiration, retailers' rights cannot be ignored or sacrificed unless there are clear evidence-based reasons for eradicating and suppressing access to a legitimate product, nor should retailers be punished for selling such a product by way of financial penalties.

We note that the Minister is due to implement a ban on self-service vending units in bars, hotels and clubs. Retailers may consider that such a ban would improve the level of sales in their own outlets but should be mindful that if the estimated 7,000 units currently providing tobacco products in the hospitality sector are removed, the level of income that the Department of Health has publically stated it wishes to achieve through a licencing system (€5m) will now be met by the

5,000 retailers (not the current 12,000 outlets). This would equate to an annual fee of €1,000.

There is no justification for the existing registration system to be altered, other than to act as a punishment for tobacco retailing.

Registration provides the HSE/Department of Health with all the necessary information required to monitor compliance with tobacco - control legislation.

If a retailer is in breach of legislation, the existing registration system and the existing court fines and penalties are available to the HSE; licencing will not change any of this.

It is very important that you, as a retailer, do not have any additional fines or fees applied to your business; You need to make your TD aware that any attempt to extract extra money from your business is not only unwelcome but



The CSNA believes retailers' rights cannot be ignored unless there are clear evidence-based reasons for eradicating and suppressing access to a legitimate tobacco product

is also disproportionate.

Similarly, the intention of the Department of Health to initiate a licencing system (complete with as yet unspecified fees) for the sale of e-cigarettes will undoubtedly favour the chemists selling nicotine replacement therapies, causing a product that is playing its part in reducing tobacco harm to contract and become less widely available. ■

CSNA CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any queries regarding CSNA services or membership please contact the office on Naas Road, Dublin 22 on **045-535050** or by email to info@csna.ie/www.csna.ie