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Public holiday reminder: 17th and 18th March



Both Thursday 17th March and Friday 18th March will be public holidays this year

With two Public Holidays in March (Thursday 17th and Friday 18th) we would like to remind retailers of staff public holiday entitlements.

The benefit of the public holiday is determined by the employer and an employee will be entitled to one of the following:

- A paid day off on the day
- A paid day off within a month of the public holiday
- An additional day's annual leave
- An additional day's pay

Full-time employees:

Full-time workers are entitled to the benefit of the public holiday no matter how long they have been employed in their role.

Part-time employees:

Part-time workers are also entitled to the full benefit of the public holiday if they have worked a total of 40 hours in the five weeks prior to a public holiday.

EM News increases carriage service charge (CSC) From April

In a written communication to each retail customer that has a CSC applied, EM News has advised that a decision had been taken to increase the charge in each of the nine bands it operates. This is universally applied to each of the bands equally and represents a 1.9% increase to the current charges, which have been in place since early 2020.

In the UK, where the owners of EM News operate as Menzies, the increase will be 3.5%. It is to be noted that a number of years ago, EM indicated to the association that it wished to implement a change to the band system that has been used in Ireland for over 30 years; changes that we rejected on the grounds that they would hurt the medium-sized news retailer.

EM News carried out an exercise in recent times to calculate the average weekly purchases from each of their CSC-paying customers, using the 13-week period of weeks 27 to week 39 (10 June 2021 to 2 Sept 2021). This period was selected as retail had re-opened from 17 May and a degree of "normality" was returning. It is important to understand that the figures used to calculate CSC excludes VAT and levies and includes all credits for unsolds and processed claims for non-delivery and shortages.

When these calculations were completed, EM News shared the following information: "Most customers will stay in their current band, the



EM News has increased the carriage service charge equally by 1.9% within each of the nine bands it operates

actual figure is 83%. These customers will, from April 9th, pay an additional 1.9%. In monetary terms, this ranges from an €0.84 cent increase (band 1) to a €1.25 increase for those in band 9."

We need to understand that although the sales of news and magazines continue to decline (not quite as pronounced in the Covid period it should be noted), there were two significant increases in RRP implemented in each of the previous two Christmas periods. These increases in RRP cushioned the volume declines and actually improved the overall profitability of the sector given the unique methodology of wholesale price setting (discounts off the VAT-exclusive RRP).

IGBF thanks CSNA for continued generosity despite pandemic challenges

"Little did we know then what the following two years had in store for us as an industry and how critical these donations would become – when practically all of our traditional fund-raising events were cancelled due to Covid restrictions," she continued.

The CSNA made a €10,000 donation to the IGBF on behalf of their members in early 2020 to assist the benevolent fund in the work they undertake for retailers and their families during times of need.

For over 30 years, IGBF has given enormous assistance to relieve hardship amongst all employed, unemployed and retired members and their spouses, who have fallen on difficult times because of ill health or bereavement. The charity currently assists nearly 250 families monthly.

"The CSNA is delighted to be able to make the €10,000 donation on behalf of our members to this outstanding organisation," said CSNA National Executive member Joe Mannion.

"The work that IGBF does on behalf of retailers does not go unnoticed and we are more than happy to make the donation in the knowledge that it will make a difference to those retailers and their

IGBF chairwoman Frances Higgins said the CSNA's generous donation has enabled the IGBF to continue its support of colleagues and their families across the trade and beyond



families," Mannion said. "On behalf of the National Executive and CSNA members we would like to extend our gratitude to the IGBF for their work."

In January 2020, we were delighted to receive the very generous donation of €10,000 from Vincent and the CSNA," said IGBF chairwoman Frances Higgins.

"Little did we know then what the following two years had in store for us as an industry and how critical these donations would become – when practically all of our traditional fund-raising events were cancelled due to Covid restrictions," she continued.

"This donation enabled the IGBF to continue its support of our colleagues and their families across the trade and beyond, who rely on our help and assistance. A huge heartfelt thank you to all of your members and wishing you all a very happy, safe and prosperous 2022 trading."

CSNA announces Lotto poster competition winner



Congratulations to Peter Kitt from Galway who won our Lotto poster competition

Last month we ran a member exclusive competition for members who displayed their CSNA “must be won” jackpot posters in their stores. Congratulations to our winner, Peter Kitt from Galway who won the €100 One4All voucher. We would like to thank all the members that sent in their entries. Keep an eye on the CSNA ezine for future member exclusive competitions.

CSNA calls on government to provide clear legislation on age limit for vaping products

E-cigarettes and vaping have been in Ireland for more than a decade and have many of their characteristics controlled through European Directives and national legislation.

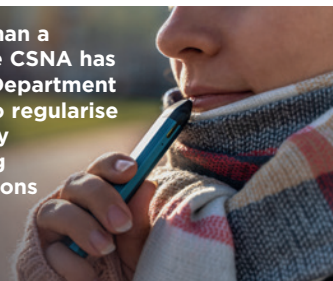
The packaging, shape and description of flavours have not been dealt with in the same manner as cigarettes and other tobacco products and as such, retailers of vaping products are free to display the products once they contain the required prescribed warnings regarding nicotine not exceeding permissible strengths.

Furthermore, at this point, the law has not set an age limit on the sale of vaping products, nor is there an age limit on the age of the sales staff. There are no legal sanctions applied for online sales within the jurisdiction.

For more than a decade, the association has asked the Department of Health to regularise this anomaly and provide clear direction, by way of laws, on age-limitations for vaping products, coupled with the prohibition of proxy purchasing, that is, the supply of products to a minor by an adult.

We feel it was galling and most unfair for several Deputies and Senators at the recent

For more than a decade, the CSNA has asked the Department of Health to regularise the anomaly surrounding age-limitations for vaping products



Oireachtas Health Committee hearing with representatives of the Vape Vendors body castigate the sector for selling online without watertight age preventative measures in place: someone needs to remind them that the legislators have had over a decade to put in place whatever laws they felt necessary.

We are continually reminded that self-policing is inadequate yet where is the much-sought law?

Retailers were the first, over 20 years ago, to warn the Department and the then Minister for Health, Michael Martin, that Ireland was experiencing significant volumes of tobacco smuggling; we were ignored, it was suggested we were exaggerating. ■

CSNA CONTACT DETAILS

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