

CSNA NEWS



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National President, CSNA

PRESIDENT'S OPINION

CSNA supports proposed amendment to Sick Leave Bill

The Sick Leave Bill currently being discussed in the Oireachtas will create additional costs for our members that replace a staff member with a substitute. The CSNA supports this amendment which acknowledges that those of us in service and customer-facing businesses are different from employers that do not replace absent employees.

We hope that the Tánaiste will accept Deputy Matt Shanahan's amendment which would insert a new section into the bill that reads as follows:

Section 16

Those employers who can provide evidence that an extra employee was paid for during the period of sick leave, in order to ensure no interruption in business activities or customer service, will be entitled to apply for a rebate of those costs from the Revenue Commissioners. The Minister will make regulations to this effect.

CSNA OPINION

CSNA believes CCPC questionnaires represent a 'fishing expedition'

Many fuel retailers recently received communications from the CCPC (formerly the Competition Authority) requesting that they fill out an extraordinarily detailed questionnaire regarding fuel sales in the most recent month.

We believe that the CCPC are on a fishing expedition seeking "evidence" or "facts" to justify what could prove an extensive exercise to back up the hostile furore whipped up by politicians and commentators, which we believe is totally ignorant of the realities of fuel retailing.

Unless the CCPC finds conclusive evidence of collusion or Cartel-like behaviour, no laws were broken by retailers. Unfortunately, many owners, managers and their staff were subjected to the most sustained, vile and threatening

behaviour from hard-pressed motorists who had been fed a false diet of hope and blame.

This questionnaire is voluntary; you may or may not be able to find the time to reply, it's not as if there aren't 100 more pressing matters on your desk.

Although the letter provides a legislative backing for compelling a retailer to respond, in such an instance they would need to prove the need to get your response as a vital and necessary component of a directed investigation.

The people designing the questionnaire are literally seeking an hour-by-hour reporting of deliveries and sales, incl VAT and ex VAT, volume, and value for a 20-day period.

It's your call - if we could get assurances that the CCPC would



The CCPC has requested that retailers fill out a detailed questionnaire on their fuel sales

investigate the very public calls to boycott certain brands and establishments we would be more inclined to have faith in this process.

CSNA NEWS

Future test purchasing planned for Lottery agents

In 2018, the regulator of the National Lottery commissioned IPSOS/MRBI to conduct test purchases, using minors aged 15, 16 and 17 to test the willingness of retail agents to sell a scratchcard to these children.

The results were a wake-up call to both Premier Lotteries Ireland (PLI), operators of the National Lottery and to responsible retailers. In 38% (almost four in 10) of the 510 stores surveyed, which were fully representative of the retail mix (supermarkets, service stations, convenience, post offices, newsagents etc) of the Lottery network, the minors (who were observed by an MRBI representative) were not asked their age nor asked for I.D. to verify their age. This has led to a series of actions from PLI to encourage and ultimately enforce a compliance regime from the agent network.

The regulator has indicated in a recently published strategy



The National Lottery regulator has indicated that she will conduct another test purchase initiative using minors within the next two years

outlook that she will be carrying out another test purchase initiative using minors within the next two years. Given the huge focus that PLI has placed on improving awareness and signage, it would be hoped that the results will more closely mirror those obtained by EHOs for tobacco and by An Garda Síochána for alcohol. The solution is to ask for an age-confirming I.D.

CSNA ADVICE

Beware: It is illegal to offer tobacco promotions

In 2013, the Minister for Health James Reilly published a Statutory Instrument 530/2013 which enacted the Public Health (Tobacco) (Control of Sales Promotion) Regulations 2013.

These set out the following:

- A person cannot, sell, cause to be sold, make available, cause to be made available, promote, cause to be promoted, a tobacco product to another person at a reduced price or free of charge whether the provision is in conjunction with another tobacco product or a different product or service.

It is highly unlikely that any retailer would ever give away or promote any tobacco product but be aware - it is an offence if they did.



It is an offence to give away or promote any tobacco product

IF YOU WISH TO **JOIN THE CSNA**,
PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION ON **045 535050**



CSNA MEMBER STORY

Caution: Check your security measures today!

The CSNA has been notified by numerous members of a series of robberies in the Limerick area. In one instance the individuals were able to bypass the key opening/closing pad for shutters very quickly! The individuals then broke the glass in the sliding entrance doors to gain entry to the store. Once inside, they proceeded to the cigarette gantry where they stole numerous products and also stole the contents from the tobacco drawers below.

These robberies took place in several Limerick stores over the space of a couple of weeks with the thieves entering and leaving one of the stores within three minutes. All the reported break ins were at night-time and not during opening hours.

We would encourage and advise all members to review their current security measures and procedures as this gang will without a doubt travel across the country to other stores.



Following a series of robberies in the Limerick area, the CSNA is advising members to review their security measures

CSNA TIP OF THE MONTH

Security tip: Install a roller shutter floor bolt

Following on from the recent robberies in Limerick, we have made some enquiries on behalf of our members. After some investigating, it is apparent that the thieves bypassed the shutter key lock by removing 1 - 4 screws from the pad and then placing a brace inside to engage the shutter to open.

After some considerations, we would encourage members to have a roller shutter floor bolt installed. This will inevitably slow the thieves down and hopefully the sight of a floor bolt lock will deter them from your premises as they increase the risk of being caught by using their time to break through the keypad and the floor bolt.

You can also have an electronic device added to your keypad so that once the cover is removed, this will disable the shutter from engaging and opening. However, this is a costly change for some retailers and therefore we found the floor bolt lock to be the most cost-effective change for members.