



# WARNING

**Illegal sweets and  
fizzy drinks are being  
confiscated**

There are a number of imported products being introduced into the UK market, many of which are not compliant with UK food law. This puts consumers at risk of:

- Missing or incorrect food allergen labelling
- Food containing ingredients that do not meet UK food safety standards
- Food containing ingredients that are not authorised for use in the UK
- Food additives used as ingredients at higher levels than permitted in the UK

Salford City Council's Trading Standards team is clamping down on the sale of these illegal products and confiscating them from local shops.

## Banned additives and ingredients

Some imported sweets and drinks contain additives and ingredients that are banned in the UK because they are linked to:

- hyperactivity
- behavioural problems
- cancer
- kidney and other organ damage
- heart problems
- making insulin response less effective
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, stomach cramps
- copper deficiency
- headaches
- dizziness
- nutrient deficiencies and reduced immune function

## What to look for

It is illegal to sell products containing the following ingredients in the UK:

- Brominated vegetable oil (BVO)
- E127, Erythrosine (shown on US products as Red 3)
- Mineral oil – this carries the risk of contamination with other compounds, which in turn are capable of forming cancers
- Bleached flour

These following additives can cause hyperactivity and behavioural problems in children. There should be a warning on the packaging to state this. If there is no warning, it is illegal to sell products containing these ingredients:

- Sunset yellow FCF (E110)
- Quinoline yellow (E104)
- Carmoisine (E122)
- Allura red (E129)
- Tartrazine (E102)
- Ponceau 4R (E124)

The following additives are allowed in food but not in drinks:

- Calcium disodium EDTA (E385) - in animal studies it caused adverse reproductive and developmental effects and in mice has been shown to contribute to cancer of the colon
- Erythorbic acid (E315)

## Food labelling requirements

### Food Labelling: Article 9 1169/2011

Under UK food law, there are a number of requirements for food labelling:

- All ingredients must be declared under a heading called "Ingredients"
- All allergens must be shown in the ingredients list, they must stand out from other ingredients. For example, be in **bold** or a different font or a different colour which highlights the allergens from other ingredients.
- All labelling must be in English and, where imported, the UK importer's name and address must be on the label.
- Nutritional Information must be headed as 'Nutritional information' NOT 'Nutrition Facts'

## What to look for

- UK labelling is grams and Millilitres (g, ml). If the labelling of weights is ounce, or fluid ounce, the product is likely to be American, for the American market.
- Does the ingredients list have colours used labelled with the correct E number AND a warning about the adverse effect of colour on children (where required)? For example, Yellow 5 should be written as "Colour (E 102), Red 40 should be written as "Colour (E 129).
- Food and drink containing any of these six colours must carry a warning on the packaging. This will say '**May have an adverse effect on activity and attention in children**' - E 100, E 104, E 122, E 129, E 102, E 124.
- Are the details of the Food Business Operator (FBO) responsible for the food on the label? Is the address a UK address?

If they contain a banned ingredient – do **NOT** place the product on the market.

Here are some examples of the imported products that have been found to contain banned additives and ingredients, listed below. If you're currently selling products with banned ingredients, please take these off your shelves and don't sell them to customers. If you're selling products that don't meet UK food labelling requirements, you may be able to create new labels to apply to each pack to make them UK compliant. Please contact Trading Standards for advice.

Jolly Rancher hard candy



Twizzler Twists



Fanta Pineapple



Hostess Twinkies



Jolly Rancher gummies original



Chewy Lemonheads



Mtn Dew



Hostess Golden Cupcakes



Jolly Rancher lollipop



Lemonheads Original (theatre box)



Mirinda



Pillsbury Confetti Cake Mix



Swedish Fish



Hot Tamales



Sunny D



USA Prime Hydration Drink



Swedish Fish Tropical



Cheetos Crunchy



Sunny D Orange Strawberry



American Pickles



Twizzlers



Takis blue heat





## What action is Trading Standards taking?

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Salford's Trading Standards team are carrying out inspections at retailers, wholesalers and importers. We'll give advice and issue notices for non-compliant products.

If you fail to comply with legal requirements, this is a criminal offence and may lead to enforcement action, which may include destruction of the non-compliant products.

Supplying non-compliant products can lead to financial, legal and reputational risks, as these products will likely be subject to product withdrawals and recalls, documents will be traced and trader names and addresses will be followed in the supply chain.

## How can I find out more?

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You can learn more at

[www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/imported-food-trade-information](http://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/imported-food-trade-information)

[www.businesscompanion.info](http://www.businesscompanion.info)

or contact Salford City Council's Trading Standards team at

[trading.standards@salford.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@salford.gov.uk)