

Counterfeit and non-compliant tobacco products at Europa

- Para. 11.27 of [Guidance published under s182 of the Licensing Act](#) states that, in the context of review proceedings, use of licensed premises for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol should be treated particularly seriously.
- Para. 11.28 of the Guidance states:
 - a) *It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.*
- **24 February 2015:** 16 packs of 4 brands of illicit Polish-labelled cigarettes were seized from Europa by Trading Standards. These included the unusual brand NZ. They were seized and a warning was given to a young Polish assistant.
- **29 February 2016:** two packs of non-compliant L & M and one pack of non-compliant NZ gold cigarettes were sold to a trading standards test purchaser by a young Polish woman working at Europa;
- **3 March 2016:** 122 packs of 7 brands of non-compliant tobacco products, all bearing foreign health warnings, with some counterfeits, were seized from a hidden compartment built into shelving at Europa. These included L & M and NZ cigarettes. The only person present during the seizure was a young Polish assistant.
- **22 June 2016:** A Trading Standards test purchaser went back to Europa and bought three packets of illicit cigarettes, all bearing incorrect health warnings. The brands were identical to those purchased on 29 February 2016 and were hidden behind food or alcohol.
- **20 July 2016:** Officers caught an assistant in the process of selling illicit tobacco products to a customer. 140 packs of incorrectly labelled tobacco products were then seized from hiding places on high shelves and in the store room. These were all incorrectly labelled and some were counterfeit.