

# REMOTE SALES OF BLADED ARTICLES / CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES

## BLADED ARTICLES

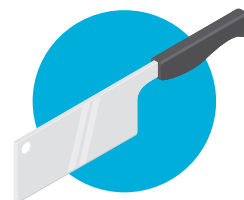
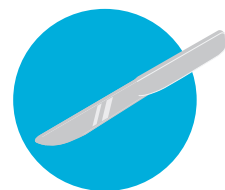
A bladed article is any knife, knife blade, razor blade, axe, or other article with a blade or sharp point and which is made or adapted to use for causing injury to a person. This includes everything from cutlery knives and bread knives to razors and gardening tools that could be considered a knife. Pocket knives, where the knife has a folding blade which is three inches (7.62cm) or less in length are exempt from this requirement, as are safety razors that are permanently enclosed in a cartridge or housing where less than two millimetres of any blade is exposed. These products must not be sold to a person under 18.

## BLADED PRODUCTS

A bladed product is a subset of bladed articles and is an item with a blade that is capable of causing a serious injury to a person which involves cutting that person's skin. This does not include cutlery knives (other than sharply pointed steak knives), pizza cutters and small cheese knives, utility knives with small cutting blades and snap off cutters. For these products, see the section on bladed articles. These products must not be sold to a person under 18.

## CORROSIVE PRODUCTS

Corrosive products are commonly used in such products as high strength drain cleaners/unblockers, paint strippers, brick and patio cleaners, cleaning products, rust or limescale removers. However, products such as normal strength household bleach and cleaners will not be caught by the age restrictions on sales as they tend to be more of an irritant and do not contain corrosive chemicals. Sellers will, however, need to check their product ranges to ensure that they know which products meet the definition of a corrosive product and must not be sold to a person under 18.



### Bladed articles

### Corrosive products / Bladed products

An order is made remotely by the customer, that is online, by phone or by post.

The retailer checks the ID of the customer online using a compliant age verification system\*\*.

In-store, the order is prepared for delivery, which includes ensuring the package is clearly marked to indicate that it contains a bladed article **and** that it must not be handed to anyone under 18.

The retailer checks that a business operates from the delivery address. The retailer must retain evidence of these checks. Where sales of corrosive products and bladed products are made remotely, delivery to a residential address is an offence under the Offensive Weapons Act, but can be made where a business operates from a residential premise.

In-store, the order is prepared for delivery, which includes ensuring the package is clearly marked to indicate that it contains a bladed article **and** that it must not be handed to anyone under 18.

**UNDER 25?**

Please show ID when buying age restricted products

At the door, Age verification must be carried out, using the Challenge 25 policies by the member of staff delivering the products or delivery company and where necessary ID must be checked. The products must be handed to someone over the age of 18. They must not be left with a neighbour or left in a safe place. Products must not be delivered to a locker.

**UNDER 25?**

Please show ID when buying age restricted products

Any issues with delivery or refusals to deliver should be recorded, as with refusals made in store.

\*\* A compliant Age verification system is one which can demonstrate compliance with PAS 1296:2018 Code of Practice for Online Age Verification service providers.

## DELIVERY PARTNERS

Where businesses are using a separate delivery company, they must have a clear agreement in place with that company which requires it to have arrangements in place to ensure that the bladed article, bladed product or corrosive product would not be handed to a person under 18. The business should also carry out checks to ensure this is happening.

## EXEMPTIONS

Plastic or wooden cutlery, for example that which is delivered alongside takeaway food, is not covered by the Offensive Weapons Act. Cutlery that is designed for children is also exempt from the requirements.

An ACS best practice guide for retailers  
[www.acs.org.uk](http://www.acs.org.uk)

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