



### ACS Submission: Licensing for Sale of Knives

**Do you sell knives or other bladed articles?**

Yes

**No**

**4. Should businesses which sell knives and bladed articles be required to hold a licence?**

YES

**NO**

Please see answer to question 8.

**6. How long do you think a seller's or importer's licence should be valid for before it needs to be renewed?**

3 years

5 years

10 years

**Other**

It would make sense to align the licensing system with that of the alcohol licensing regime, whereby a licence can remain in place indefinitely subject to ongoing compliance, rather than requiring frequent renewal. This approach would reduce administrative burdens on responsible retailers while still keeping safeguards in place.

**7. Who should be required to hold a licence to import knives and bladed articles?**

UK-based authorised importer

Retailers, not including private individuals

Anyone – including private sellers and individuals importing items for personal use

**Other**

ACS represents the convenience retail end of the supply chain and therefore not have a view on who should be required to hold a licence to import knives and bladed articles.

## **8. Do you anticipate that this measure will impact your business/business operations?**

The impact on convenience retailers will ultimately depend on the scope and practical implementation of the licensing scheme. In particular, clarity is needed on which products would require a licence. ACS does not believe that retailers selling bladed articles which do not carry an age restriction such as safety razors, potato peelers and pizza wheels should be required to hold a licence, as these products are low risk and widely used for legitimate domestic purposes. Requiring a licence for such items would not represent a proportionate or effective approach to tackling knife crime and would impose unnecessary burdens on responsible businesses.

ACS strongly recommends alignment products impacted with scope of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 because it focuses on items that genuinely pose a risk of harm or are associated with crime.

If the scheme extends beyond this framework, retailers would face the following impacts:

- Costs associated with licence applications,
- Staff familiarisation with new guidance, training, and ongoing compliance requirements.
- Potential store display and layout change
- For some stores, the administrative and financial pressures could outweigh the commercial benefit of selling certain products, leading some to discontinue these lines altogether.

## **9. Have you got any other comments?**

ACS is a trade association representing over 50,000 convenience retailers across the UK. Members include the Co-op, Spar UK, One Stop and thousands of independent retailers.