



ACS Submission: Laser Pointers – Call for Evidence

ACS (the Association of Convenience Stores) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Regulatory Delivery's call for evidence on laser pointers. ACS is a trade association representing 33,500 local shops across the UK. Our members include the Co-Op, One Stop, McColls, and thousands of independent retailers.

Convenience retailers sell a range of grocery products and provide a number of services to their local communities, including Post Offices, free to use ATMs, bill payments services, and parcel collection. Retailers also need to ensure that the products that they sell are safe. ACS developed Assured Advice guidance for retailers on [Product Safety](#) as part of our Primary Authority partnership with Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards.

In our guidance, we advise about laser key ring products, stating: "Lasers that are too strong can severely damage sight. Do not sell key rings and other products containing lasers to children and do not sell any products with a laser stronger than category 1. NEVER place these items near children's toys." ¹

To inform our submission, we surveyed members in order to find out if they sold laser pointers, what strength of laser pointer they sold, and their views were on interventions on the sale of laser pointers. We found that only a small minority of stores sold laser pointers.

Please see below for our response to the relevant consultation questions.

6. Have you ever purchased, sold or made a laser pointer? If so, can you provide more information about where you bought or sold the product (or its component parts), and what the intended use was?

Only two businesses of the 7 surveyed (representing 3,775 stores) responded that they sold laser pointers. This is equivalent to 292 stores (7.7%).

Only selected stores of the two retailers sold the laser pointers as the laser pointers were part of their pet care range.

8. What strength laser pointers do you make/sell? What is the price of each strength laser pointer that you make/sell? Is this a seasonal product (e.g. do you sell more at Christmas)? How many do you sell annually?

Of the retailers that said that they did sell laser pointers, they only sold Class 2/up to and including 1mW laser pointers.

We do not have data on the annual sales of laser pointers.

¹ [ACS Assured Advice: Product Safety](#)

12. Do you think a licensing system to control the sale and purchase of laser pointers would be effective?

Retailers who said that they sold laser pointers stated that they would drop the product from the range if a licensing system was introduced.

For more information, please contact Julie Byers, ACS Public Affairs Manager, by emailing Julie.Byers@acs.org.uk or calling 01252 515001