

Counterfeit Goods Campaign

06/03/2008

Counterfeit goods sellers are a big problem for businesses in Southampton.

Businesses and doorstep sellers trading in fake goods means reputable businesses in Southampton are losing out. This illegal practice costs the UK economy millions every year.

And now Southampton City Council's Trading Standards Team is launching a campaign to rid the city of this blight after seizing hundreds of dodgy goods from sellers during previous months.

The trading standards team recently visited the city's industrial estates - where counterfeit goods sellers often sell their haul - and asked businesses if they were aware of anyone selling fake goods. Most businesses asked said they knew of such sellers.

Using this information the trading standards team has since seized several hundred illegal copies of dvds, many pornographic, from three separate sellers. Large quantities of cigarettes from people who had not paid UK tax duty costs, have also been seized.

"These seizures and the recent research undertaken have given us a glimpse of potentially a much bigger problem in Southampton and the country as a whole," said Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability, Councillor Richard Williams. "We are responding to concerns from businesses to tackle this problem and bring counterfeit good sellers to justice."

As part of the campaign our trading standards team is contacting local businesses to warn them of the risks of buying from doors sellers as well as how to report sellers in their area and bring them to justice.

Businesses owners and employees can receive a possible fine of £5,000 from magistrates court for selling counterfeit goods, or as much as a 10 year prison sentence at crown court for trade mark offences.

If you know off a seller of counterfeit goods contact trading standards in confidence on 023 8083 4927 or email trading_standards@southampton.gov.uk