 PRESS RELEASE

**Results of solid fuel inspections in 2024**

*(Final Report 2024)*

(Prague, 23 January 2025) **The Czech Trade Inspection Authority has evaluated the inspections focused on solid fuels. CTIA officers carried out a total of 31 inspections of operators in 2024 and found infringements of the Act on Consumer Protection or the Act on Clean Air Protection in 5 of them.**

Last year, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority inspected the compliance with the obligations applicable for the sale of solid fuels as set out in Act No. 201/2012 Coll., on Clean Air Protection ("Air Protection Act"), within the scope of the quality indicators set out in the implementing legislation to the Act, namely Decree No. 415/2012 Coll., on the permissible level of pollution and its detection and on the implementation of certain other provisions of the Air Protection Act. Furthermore, the inspection action focused on compliance with the principles of fairness of sales and provision of services, compliance with the prohibition on the use of unfair commercial practices and compliance with information obligations in relation to the range of products offered.

The audited entities were natural and legal persons placing solid fuels on the domestic market, offering the sale of solid fuels and other persons carrying out commercial activities in the area of the sale and provision of services relating to the sale of solid fuels.

In the period from 1 June to 31 October 2024, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority carried out 31 inspections of operators and found violations of legal regulations in 5 operators in a total of 6 cases. In 1 case, a breach of Section 16(1) of the Air Protection Act was detected. Infringements of the obligations laid down in Act No 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection were found in 5 cases.

When selling solid fuels, the seller offered for sale coal that failed the quality claimed by the seller. The audit also found that the seller did not properly inform consumers about the characteristics of solid fuels. Furthermore, it was found that the seller did not inform the consumer about the price of the offered products in accordance with the pricing regulations by clearly marking the product with the price, nor did he otherwise make the price information available.

A total of 21 samples of solid fuels were taken during the inspection operation, including 14 samples of bulk coal and 7 samples of biomass products offered in packaging from the manufacturer (1x wood pellets and 6x wood briquettes). Of the total number of samples taken, 3 samples were assessed as unsatisfactory. In 3 cases, the maximum stated value of the sub-sulphur was found to be exceeded compared to the values in the manufacturers' product catalogues and the manufacturer's quality certificate. At the same time, in 1 case, the bulk coal sampled did not comply with the qualitative indicators set out in the Decree on the permissible level of pollution and its detection and on the implementation of certain other provisions of the Air Protection Act; the laboratory test of grain size revealed an exceedance of the dust limit value.

**Measures imposed**

Fines totalling CZK 2,000 were finally imposed in 2 cases for violation of Act No 634/1992 Coll., on consumer protection. Further measures will be dealt within administrative proceedings.