PRESS RELEASE

 **The Czech Trade Inspection Authority checked
the ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors**

*(Report for the first quarter 2025)*

(Prague, 3 June 2025) **During the first quarter of this year, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority continued to carry out inspections as part of its inspection action to verify whether sellers comply with Act No.65/2017 Coll., on the Protection of Health against the Harmful Effects of Addictive Substances, Act No.353/2003 Coll., on Excise Duties, Act No.307/2013 Coll., on the Mandatory Labelling of Alcohol, and other laws. The CTIA carried out 1,652 inspections, and deficiencies were detected in 785 inspections (47.52%). The most serious finding was the sale of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 18, which was detected in 110 cases.**

The event focused primarily on compliance with legal regulations governing the offer and sale of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, smoking aids, herbal products intended for smoking, electronic cigarettes, nicotine sachets without tobacco content and products containing nicotine. In the period from 2 January to 31 March 2025, **a total of 1 652 inspections were carried out, of which almost half (785) were detected (47.52%). Violations of laws regulating the offer and sale of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and related products were detected in 183 inspections (11.08%).** Persons under 18 years of age were used for 251 control purchases, 20 controls were carried out in cooperation with the staff of trade authorities, 11 controls with the participation of the Police of the Czech Republic, 2 controls with the participation of members of the Fire Rescue Corps of the Czech Republic, 2 controls were carried out in cooperation with members of the Foreign Police and 1 control in cooperation with inspectors of the State Agricultural and Food Inspectorate. Some inspections were attended by several state administration bodies at the same time.

**Violations of a provision of Act No. 65/2017 Coll., on the Protection of Health against the Harmful Effects of Addictive Substances, were found in 215 cases. Of this number:**

* **in 110 cases, violations of Section 11(5), which prohibits the sale or serving of an alcoholic beverage to a person under the age of 18, were found,**
* in 39 cases, sellers did not display at the point of sale of tobacco products, smoking aids, herbal products intended for smoking, electronic cigarettes, nicotine sachets without tobacco content and products containing nicotine a text clearly visible to the consumer on the prohibition of the sale of these goods to persons under 18 years of age, or the text was not made in the manner prescribed by law, i.e. in the Czech language, in black letters on a white background with a letter size of at least 2 cm, thereby infringing the provisions of Article 5(2),
* in 28 cases, infringements of Article 13(1) were found, as the sellers did not display at the point of sale of alcoholic beverages to consumers a clearly visible text concerning the prohibition of the sale of such beverages to persons under 18 years of age, or the text was not reproduced in the statutory version, i.e. in Czech, in black letters on a white background with a letter size of at least 2 cm,
* in 12 cases, violations of Section 3(4) were found, as **the sellers violated the prohibition on selling or giving tobacco products, herbal smoking products, electronic cigarettes, nicotine sachets without tobacco and/or products containing nicotine to a person under 18 years of age in 11 cases and violated the prohibition on selling smoking aids to a person under 18 years of age in 1 case,**
* in 12 cases, violations of Section 3(5) were found, where the seller violated the prohibition on providing economic benefits in the sale of tobacco products, smoking aids, herbal smoking products, electronic cigarettes, electronic cigarette refills and nicotine sachets without tobacco content,
* in 7 cases, the seller did not offer tobacco products, smoking aids, herbal smoking products, electronic cigarettes and nicotine sachets without tobacco content in a separate place from the other goods on offer, thereby infringing the provisions of Article 5(1),
* violations of other provisions of the Act on the Protection of Health against the Harmful Effects of Addictive Substances were found in only a few cases.

**Violations of Act No. 353/2003 Coll., on excise duties,** were found **in 1 case**. This was a violation of Section 114, where the seller did not comply with the obligation to sell tobacco products marked with a tobacco sticker. No violation of Act No. 307/2013 Coll., on compulsory labelling of alcohol, was detected in the period under review.

**Violations of any of the provisions of Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection**, were found **in 810 cases**. The most frequent findings related to breaches of the principles of fairness of sale, within the meaning of Section 3, which were found in 256 cases. Failure to inform the consumer of the price of the products and services offered in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 was qualified in 234 cases. Failure to issue a receipt for the purchase of products, although the consumer had requested it, or issuing a receipt without the necessary particulars in accordance with Article 16 was found in 112 cases. Other infringements were found in a smaller number. Violations of other laws under the supervision of the CTIA were found in only a few cases.

On the basis of the detected infringements of legal regulations within the supervisory competence of the CTIA, **641 fines with a total value of CZK 13,542,000 came into force in the first quarter of 2025.** In some cases, the fines were combined fines imposed for deficiencies detected during multiple inspections at different establishments of the same seller. For breaches of the obligations laid down in specific regulations, **a ban was imposed on the sale of 133 products with a total value of CZK 6 621 and a ban was issued on the use of 133 measuring instruments** that did not comply with the applicable legislation, technical standards, other technical regulations or the approved type.

The results of the inspections confirmed the justification of the inspection action, where deficiencies were found in almost half (47.52%) of the inspections. **The most serious finding was the sale or serving of alcoholic beverages to persons under 18 years of age, which was detected in 110 cases, i.e. in 6.66% of the total number of 1,652 checks carried out.** The Czech Trade Inspection Authority will continue to focus intensively on control activities in this area.