PRESS RELEASE

 **The Czech Trade Inspection Authority checked the ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco to minors in the second quarter of the year and detected the sale of alcohol to minors in 157 cases**

*(Report for the second quarter 2025)*

(Prague, 20 August 2025) **During the second quarter of this year, the Czech Trade Inspection Authority continued its inspection action in which it verifies 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 requirements of the laws according to the powers entrusted to it. It carried out 1,887 inspections, and deficiencies were detected in 855 inspections (45.31%). It considers the sale of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 18 to be the most serious finding, which was detected in 157 cases.**

The inspection action 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 1 April to 30 June 2025, **a total of 1 887 inspections were carried out, of which almost half (855) were detected (45.31%). Violations of laws regulating the offer and sale of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and related products were detected in 255 inspections (13.51%).** The above figures on the number of inspections include inspections carried out within the framework of the Alcohol, Drugs and Youth 2025 /ADaM/ extraordinary inspection action, which was launched at the end of June and is still ongoing. It is coordinated by the Police of the Czech Republic and the evaluation will be published after its completion.

As part of the control action, persons under the age of 18 were invited to 306 investigations, who were making control purchases and whose participation was necessary to prove a breach of certain provisions of Act No.65/2017 Coll., 98 inspections were carried out with the participation of the Police of the Czech Republic, 64 inspections were carried out in cooperation with employees of trade licensing offices, 22 inspections were carried out in cooperation with employees of sanitary stations, 5 inspections with members of the customs administration, 2 inspections with members of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic and 1 inspection in cooperation with members of the Aliens Police. Some inspections were attended by several public administration authorities at the same time, and the findings of 24 inspections were subsequently forwarded to the competent public administration authorities.

**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 296 cases. Of this number:**

* **in 157 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 50 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 about 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 35 cases, a violation of Section 13(1) was found, as the sellers did not display at the point of sale of alcoholic beverages to consumers clearly visible text concerning the prohibition of the sale of these beverages to persons under 18 years of age, or the text was not in the legally prescribed form, i.e. in the Czech language, in black printed letters on a white background with a letter size of at least 2 cm,
* in 27 cases, a violation of Section 3(4) was found, as **the sellers violated in 24 cases the ban on selling or giving tobacco products, herbal products intended for smoking, electronic cigarettes, nicotine sachets without tobacco and/or products containing nicotine to a person under 18 years of age** and in 3 cases they violated the ban on selling smoking aids and aids for the application or use of electronic cigarettes, nicotine sachets without tobacco and products containing nicotine to a person under 18 years of age,
* in 9 cases, a violation of Section 3(5) was 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 8 cases, sellers did not offer tobacco products, smoking aids, herbal products intended for smoking, electronic cigarettes and nicotine sachets without tobacco content in a separate place from the rest of the offered range of goods, in violation of Section 5(1),
* in 5 cases a violation of Section 13(2) was found, as persons selling or serving alcoholic beverages did not meet the mandatory minimum age limit of 18 years,
* 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 4 cases**. In 2 cases, there was a violation of Section 107(4), where sellers violated the obligation to sell tobacco products only in closed unit packs, and in 2 cases, there was a violation of Section 112, as the sale of cigarettes to the final consumer was found to be at a price higher than the price indicated on the tobacco label. No violation of Act No 307/2013 Coll., on compulsory labelling of alcohol, was detected in the monitored period.

**Violations of Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection**, were qualified **in 788 cases**. The most frequent findings related to **violations of Section 12, where sellers in 290 cases failed to inform consumers of the price of the products** and services offered in accordance with the price regulations. In 208 cases, sellers were found to have breached obligations relating to the principles of fairness of sale within the meaning of Section 3, and 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 Section 16 was found in 165 cases. Other infringements were found in a smaller number. Violations of other laws under the supervision of the CTIA were found in dozens of cases.

On the basis of detected infringements of legal regulations within the supervisory remit of the CTIA, **654 fines with a total value of CZK 7,778,500 came into force in the second quarter of 2025.**

The results of the audits confirmed the justification of the inspection action, where deficiencies were found in almost half (45.31%) 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 157 cases, i.e. in 8.32% of the total number of 1 887 checks carried out.** The Czech Trade Inspection Authority will continue to focus intensively on control activities in this area.