



Carrickfergus Borough

WHAT ROLE DO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS HAVE?

Our Environmental Health Officers protect you from dangerous goods by ensuring that no unsafe consumer goods are manufactured, imported, distributed or offered for sale within the Council area. The Consumer Safety Team gives advice to businesses on how to make sure they supply safe products. They also have wide ranging powers to enforce these regulations.

1. Inspections and Sampling

Officers inspect premises throughout the Council area and examine goods that are being offered for sale to make sure that they are safe and often sample goods. These goods can then be tested in an accredited laboratory to make sure that they comply with the relevant safety standard. When unsafe products are found, Environmental Health Officers can require shopkeepers to remove them from sale and can prevent manufacturers, importers and wholesalers from distributing them. Officers can also seize unsafe or dangerous goods.

If unsafe goods are found a system known as RAPEX Alerts is used by Carrickfergus Borough Council Environmental Health Service to notify similar Departments across the rest of Europe. Similarly, If an unsafe product is found elsewhere in Europe, Carrickfergus Borough Council Environmental Health Section will be notified of the relevant details by means of a RAPEX Alert so that officers can visit premises concerned to ensure they are not on sale in the Carrickfergus area.

The supply of unsafe goods is a criminal offence, and legal action can be taken against the manufacturer, importer, distributor or seller of goods that fail to meet standards.

2. Investigate Consumer Complaints

Environmental Health Officers will also investigate complaints from consumers with respect to products that may be unsafe. Our aim is to identify any possible safety defects and to remove any unsafe products from sale.

REMEMBER we only deal with UNSAFE goods.

If you have a complaint about counterfeit or faulty goods, or false or misleading descriptions, you should contact Trading Standards (Tel 028 9025 3900).