

Retail Legislation

General Introduction

The UK legal system divides laws into two categories; civil and criminal. Each serves a very different purpose:

Civil law is concerned with resolving disputes between individuals and other individuals or businesses on the basis of the agreed contract. Arguments may be over things like faulty goods, inadequate services, non-payment of bills and delays in completing the job. A person being treated unfairly would pursue a claim through the small claims court to claim compensation from the wrongdoer.

Criminal law is designed to protect the public as a whole. These laws concern matters such as: false descriptions, product safety, misleading prices, short measures or under age sales and are in place to punish wrongdoers through prosecutions in the Magistrates or Crown Courts. If they are found guilty, the wrong doers can be fined and/or imprisoned. Criminal law is enforced by Trading Standards, the Police, Customs & Excise, and Environmental Health.

Acts of Parliament cover the basic rules of law. They start out as a bill, are discussed and agreed in Parliament and have Royal Assent.

Regulations contain the details and procedures not included in the Act. They do not need Parliament to agree them so can be easily updated; they are enforced as rigorously as any Act.

European legislation affects the law in all member states. An EU Directive will be incorporated into UK law and an EU Regulation becomes law in the UK with immediate effect.

Organisations

Keeping up-to-date is never easy as acts and regulations are introduced, amended and repealed throughout the year. There are many useful organisations and websites that can help keep you up-to-date:

Department for Business Innovation & Skills - BIS are the government department responsible for legislation affecting businesses. They formed in June 2009 merging BERR and DIUS, (formerly the Department for Trade and Industry).

www.bis.gov.uk

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Northern Ireland)

The department responsible for regulation and enforcement of legislation in Northern Ireland.

www.detini.gov.uk

Office of Public Service Information Provides access to copies of all Acts on the website.

www.opsi.gov.uk

Office of Fair Trading enforces consumer protection law.

www.oft.gov.uk

Trading Standards Institute has a statutory duty to enforce all relevant Acts of Parliament.

www.tradingstandards.gov.uk

Ask CEedRIC the Consumer Education Resource and Information Centre produced by Trading Standards to support teachers and learners.

www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/advice/advice-cedric.cfm

ConsumerDirect.gov a website explaining consumer rights.

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

Direct.gov a user-friendly website that explains legislation.

www.direct.gov.uk

Business Link provides advice and guidance for businesses, and emails updates in legislation on request.

www.businesslink.gov.uk

Citizen's Advice Bureau gives advice to consumers.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Legislation required to be enforced in England and Wales

Trading Standards services generally have a statutory duty to enforce the following Acts of Parliament [some but not all statutory instruments including regulations made under these Acts are included]

Protection of Children (Tobacco) Act 1986. The Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991

- Prohibits the sale of tobacco to anyone under 18 and controls the siting of cigarette vending machines.

Consumer Credit Act 1974

- Provides for control of consumer credit and hire. Requires licensing of credit and hire traders.
- Controls credit and hire advertising; debt collecting and credit reference agencies.
- Controls credit and hire documentation and format used to indicate credit charges.
- Provides powers to revoke licences of traders offering credit or hire charges.
- Provides certain safeguards to consumers who purchase goods and services on credit.

Consumer Protection Act 1987

- Prohibits the supply of goods not in accordance with the general safety requirement or are unsafe.
- Provides for the safety and protection of consumers by enabling Regulations or orders to be made controlling consumer goods.
- Provides for approved safety standards to enable compliance with general safety requirements.
- Provides powers for seizing and forfeiture, and the powers to suspend the sale of suspected unsafe goods.
- Provisions as to the requirement for persons to publish notices warning of unsafe goods previously supplied.
- Provides for liability for damage caused by defective products.
- Prohibits misleading price indications.

European Communities Act 1972

- Prohibits supply of goods not of prescribed standard or composition.
- Imposes safety restrictions on certain goods.
- Protects consumer's interests respect of distance selling contracts.
- Controls the packaging of products and their suitability for recycling.
- Controls the activities of traders who persist in a course of illegal conduct in a way, which is detrimental to the interests of consumers.

Explosives Acts 1875 & 1923. Explosives (Age of Purchase) Act 1976

- Control on the selling of fireworks and the registration of explosive stores.
- Controls on the sale of fireworks to under-aged persons.

Fair Trading Act 1973

- Promotes fair- trading. Provides controls on persistent offenders who contravene trading laws.

Food Safety Act 1990

- Prohibits sale of unfit or adulterated food. Controls the quality, standard and claims made for food. Controls its description, advertising and labelling.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

- Controls the classification, packaging, labelling, carriage and storage of dangerous substances.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928 and Petroleum (Transfer of Licences) Act 1936

- Requires business storing petroleum spirit to hold a licence and to comply with stringent safety rules.

Poisons Act 1972

- Provides for the registration of the sellers of poisons and controls the sale of such poisons.

Prices Act 1974 and 1975

- Provides power to regulate the price display of certain goods and provides protection and price information for consumers.
- Promotes fair-trading.

Trade Description Act 1968

- Prohibits the mis-description on the supply of goods.
- Prohibits false claims for services, accommodation and facilities.

Trade Marks Act 1994

- Controls on fraudulent application of use of a trademark.

Video Recordings Acts 1984 and 1993

- Requires the classification and labelling of videos.

Weights and Measures Act 1985

- Regulates weighing and measuring equipment used for trade.
- Protects against deficient quantity in the sale of goods.
- Allows provision of metrological technology service to trade and industry.
- Provides guidance and control on packers' quality control systems.
- Promotes the free flow of goods within the European Union.

Other criminal legislation

Local authorities generally have no statutory duty to enforce the following legislation, but can authorise their Trading Standards service, and frequently do so.

Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985

- Prevents the sale to young persons of intoxicating substances and equipment to aid misuse of such substances.

Knives Act 1997

- Prevents the marketing of dangerous knives, and prohibits their sale to minors.

Licencing (Young Persons) Act 2000

- Control on the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor to persons under eighteen.

Mock Auctions Act 1961

- Prohibits certain practices in relation to the conduct of the running of sales by auction.

National Lottery Act 1993

- Age restrictions on the sale of lottery tickets to young persons.

Pet Animals Act 1951

- Control on the sale of pets to young persons.

The Sunday Trading Act 1994

- Reform of the complex rules on Sunday trading.

Telecommunications Act 1984

- Controls advertising, marketing and labelling of telephones and associated equipment.

Theft Act 1968 and 1978

- Prohibits obtaining property or obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception or false accounting, or going equipped to cheat.

Trading Stamps Act 1964

- Regulates the issue, use and redemption of trading stamps.

Unsolicited Goods and Services Act 1971 and Unsolicited Goods and Services (Amendment) Act 1975

- Controls the supply of unsolicited goods and demands for payment.
- Controls trade directory entries.

Civil Legislation

Local authorities have no responsibility for the following Acts. However, these Acts consolidate the trading civil law and are fundamental to the conduct of trading activities of both consumers and traders.

Misrepresentation Act 1967

- Gives consumers redress for misrepresentation of contracts.

Sale of Goods Act 1979 and Sale and Supply of Goods 1994 and Sale of Goods (Amendment) Act 1995

- Details the rights of purchasers and the duties of sellers in the sale of goods. (See below for more detailed summary)

Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982

- Details the rights of purchasers and the duties of suppliers of services.

TORTS (Interference with Goods) Act 1977

- Allows holders of another's goods to sell them under certain conditions.

Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977

- Makes unfair contract terms void.

Regulations

Cover procedures and updates relating to both civil and criminal laws. Regulations or statutory instruments (Sis) can be introduced without an Act of Parliament.

Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Practices Regulations 2008

- Brought in to harmonise consumer protection regulations across the European Union. These regulations update and replace many of the Acts listed here.

Legislation required to be enforced in Northern Ireland

Generally, the Trading Standards Service (TSS) in Northern Ireland has a duty to enforce the legislation listed below. [Please note that environmental health officers in local authorities in Northern Ireland have responsibility for enforcing legislation relating to consumer and food safety - contact: Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), 123 York Street, Belfast BT15 1AB Tel: 02890 249 286.]

Consumer Protection (Northern Ireland) ORDER 1987

- Provides for liability for damage caused by defective products.
- Prohibits misleading price indications.

Fair Trading Act 1973

- Promotes fair trading.
- Provides controls on persistent offenders who contravene trading laws.

Prices Acts 1974 AND 1975

- Provides power to regulate the price display of certain goods.
- Provides protection and price information for consumers.
- Promotes fair trading.
- Controls the manner in which prices and sale prices of goods may be indicated.

Trade Descriptions Act 1968

- Prohibits mis-description of goods.
- Prohibits false claims for services, accommodation and facilities.

Trade Marks Act 1994

- Creates offences for the unauthorised use of a trade mark etc, in relation to goods.

Video Recordings Acts 1984 and 1993

- Requires classification and labelling of videos.

Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

- Regulates weighing and measuring equipment used for trade.
- Protects against deficient quantity in sale of goods.
- Allows provision of metrological technology service to trade and industry.
- Provides guidance and control on packers' quantity control systems.

Other criminal legislation

Trading Stamps Act (Northern Ireland) 1965

- Regulates the issue, use and redemption of trading stamps.

Unsolicited Goods and Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

- Controls the supply of unsolicited goods.
- Provides penalties for demanding payment for unsolicited goods.
- Controls trade directory entries.

Civil Legislation

Whilst TSS has no responsibility for the following Acts, such civil legislation provides the basis for contract law which is applicable to consumers and businesses alike and is fundamental to the conduct of trading activities.

Cheques Act 1992

- Enables consumers to protect payment by cheque.

Misinterpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1967

- Gives consumers civil redress for misrepresentations of goods.

Sale of Goods Act 1979 and Sale and Supply of Goods 1994 and Sale of Goods (Amendment) Act 1995

- Details the rights of purchasers and the duties of sellers in the sale of goods. (See below for more detailed summary)

Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982

- For contracts other than for the sale of goods, details the rights of purchasers and the duties of sellers.

TORTS (Interference with Goods) Act 1977

- Allows holders of other people's goods to sell them if certain conditions are complied with.

Regulations

Cover procedures and updates relating to both civil and criminal laws. Regulations or statutory instruments (Sis) can be introduced without an Act of Parliament.

Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Practices Regulations 2008

- Brought in to harmonise consumer protection regulations across the European Union. These regulations update and replace many of the Acts listed here.

Sale of goods act

Sale of Goods Act 1979 and Sale and Supply of Goods 1994 and Sale of Goods (Amendment) Act 1995

- Details the rights of purchasers and the duties of sellers in the sale of goods.

These Acts state that when you buy a product it should be:

- as described
- fit for purpose
- of satisfactory quality.

As described

This means that the item you buy should be the same as any description of it. A description could be what the seller has said to you about the item or something written in a brochure.

Fit for purpose

What you buy should be able to do the job that it was made for. Also, goods should be fit for any specific purpose you agreed with the seller at the time of sale. For example, if you were looking to buy a printer and asked the seller if it would work with your computer then that advice has to be correct.

Satisfactory quality

Goods that are of satisfactory quality are:

- free from minor defects (problems)
- of a good appearance and finish
- strong and safe.

Legislation required to be enforced in England and Wales

Trading Standards services generally have a statutory duty to enforce the following Acts of Parliament [statutory instruments including regulations made under these Acts are not included]

Agriculture Act 1970

- Provides for controls on the labelling of fertilisers and animal feeding stuffs.
- Prevents excessive deleterious materials in animal feeding stuffs.

Agricultural produce (grading and marking) Acts 1928 and 1931

- Provides for the grading and marking of agricultural produce.

Animal health Act 1981

- Provides for the control of animal diseases (that can be caught by humans), and for the welfare of animals on the farm, in transit and at market.

Protection of children (Tabacco) Act 1986.

The protection of children and young persons (protection from Tabacco) Act 1991

- Prohibits the sale of tobacco to children.
- Controls the siting of cigarette vending machines.

Clean air Act 1993

- Controls the lead content of petrol and the sulphur of diesel fuel in order to reduce atmospheric pollution.

Consumer credit Act 1974

- Provides for control of consumer credit and hire.
- Requires licensing of credit and hire traders.
- Controls credit and hire advertising; debt collecting and credit reference agencies. Controls credit and hire documentation and format used to indicate credit charges. Provides powers to revoke licences of traders offering credit or hire charges.
- Provides certain safeguards to consumers who purchase goods and services on credit.

Consumer protection Act 1987

- Prohibits the supply of goods not in accordance with the general safety requirement or are unsafe.
- Provides for the safety and protection of consumers by enabling Regulations or orders to be made controlling consumer goods.
- Provides for approved safety standards to enable compliance with general safety requirements.
- Provides powers for seizing and forfeiture, and the powers to suspend the sale of suspected unsafe goods.

- Provisions as to the requirement for persons to publish notices warning of unsafe goods previously supplied.
- Provides for liability for damage caused by defective products.
- Prohibits misleading price indications.

Control of pollution Act 1974

- Controls the sale of anti-fouling paints and treatments.

Copyright, designs and patents Act 1988

Copyright etc and trademarks (offence and enforcement) Act 2002

- Establishes legal protection for designs and creates a criminal offence to combat counterfeiting.
- Controls making, importing or distributing infringing copies of copyright material.

Criminal justice and police Act 2001

- Duty to enforce and allows the making of test purchases on the sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age.

Development of tourism Act 1969

- Requires the price of accommodation to be displayed in hotels.

Educational reform Act 1988

- Restricts the ability to award degrees to certain authorised bodies.
- Controls the use of terms “Bachelor, Master or Doctor”.

Energy Act 1976

- Requires the publication of data relating to passenger car fuel consumption.

Energy conservation Act 1981

- Provides for the making of regulations requiring the labelling of certain domestic appliances as to their fuel efficiency.

Estate agents Act 1979

- Governs accounts in respect of client’s money.
- Controls certain activities in connection with disposal and acquisition of interest in land by Estate Agents.
- Provides powers to ban “unfit” persons from estate agency work.

European communities Act 1972

- Implements community obligations and the approximation of the laws of Member States.
- Prohibits supply of goods not of prescribed standard or composition.
- Imposes safety restrictions on certain goods.
- Protects consumer’s interests as to holiday travel and in respect of distance selling contracts.

- Controls the packaging of products and their suitability for recycling.
- Controls the activities of traders who persist in a course of illegal conduct in a way, which is detrimental to the interests of consumers.

Explosives Acts 1875 & 1923

Explosives (age of purchase) Act 1976

- Control on the selling of fireworks and the registration of explosive stores.
- Controls on the sale of fireworks to under-aged persons.

Fair trading Act 1973

- Promotes fair- trading. Provides controls on persistent offenders who contravene trading laws.

Food safety Act 1990

- Prohibits sale of unfit or adulterated food.
- Controls the quality, standard and claims made for food.
- Controls its description, advertising and labelling.

Food and environment protection Act 1985

- Protects the public from food rendered unsafe as a result of the escape of harmful substances, such as radioactive fall-out.
- Protects the public from the misuse of pesticides.

Hallmarking Act 1973

- Provides for the protection of purchasers of precious metals in relation to the composition, assaying, marking and description. Provides for recognition of international markings on gold, silver and platinum.

Health and safety at work etc Act 1974

- Controls the classification, packaging, labelling, carriage and storage of dangerous substances.

Medicines Act 1968

- Provides control for medicinal products in production, composition, labelling, advertising.
- Controls the incorporation of medicinal products in animal feeding stuffs.

Motor cycle noise Act 1987

- Regulates the sale of exhaust systems for motor cycles.

Nurses agencies Act 1957

- Provides control to ensure that agencies supplying nurses for temporary work at private hospitals and nursing homes are properly run by qualified and licensed persons and that only qualified nurses are supplied.

Olympic symbol etc (protection) Act 1995

- Prevents unauthorised use of the Olympic Games symbols and similar labels.

Petroleum (consolidation) Act 1928

Petroleum (Transfer of licences) Act 1936

- Requires business storing petroleum spirit to hold a licence and to comply with stringent safety rules.

Poisons Act 1972

- Provides for the registration of the sellers of poisons and controls the sale of such poisons.

Prices Act 1974 and 1975

- Provides power to regulate the price display of certain goods and provides protection and price information for consumers.
- Promotes fair-trading.

Property mis-descriptions Act 1991

- Prohibits false or misleading statements about property by estate agents or builders.

Timeshare Act 1992

- Regulates the conduct of the sale of timeshare properties.

Trade descriptions Act 1968

- Prohibits the mis-description on the supply of goods.
- Prohibits false claims for services, accommodation and facilities.

Trade marks Act 1994

- Controls on fraudulent application of use of a trademark.

Trading representations (disabled persons) Acts 1958 and 1972

- Controls representations made by traders in respect of the employment or assistance of blind or disabled persons in the production, packing or sale of goods.

Video recordings Acts 1984 and 1993

- Requires the classification and labelling of videos.

Weights and measures Act 1985

- Regulates weighing and measuring equipment used for trade.
- Protects against deficient quantity in the sale of goods.
- Allows provision of metrological technology service to trade and industry.
- Provides guidance and control on packers' quality control systems.
- Promotes the free flow of goods within the European Union.

Other criminal legislation

Local authorities generally have no statutory duty to enforce the following legislation, but can authorise their Trading Standards service, and frequently do so.

Accommodation agencies Act 1953

- Controls the taking of money for providing services in connection with the finding of property to let.

Administration of justice Act 1970

- Creates an offence for the harassment of debtors or alleged debtors.

Business names Act 1985

- Requires a business, carried on under a name other than that of its owner, to display particulars of ownership on premises and stationery.

Cancer Act 1939

- Prohibits claims concerning cures for cancer.

Companies Act 1985

- Requires limited companies to state their trading details on business premises and in documents.

Criminal justice and public order Act 1994

- Control of ticket touting at designated public events and touting for private car hire.

Dogs Act 1906

The dogs (amendment) Act 1928

- Deals with unburied animal carcasses.

Farm and garden chemicals Act 1967

- Controls labelling and marking of products.
- Prohibits transactions in certain unlabelled products.

Forgery and counterfeiting Act 1981

- Prohibits forgery and counterfeiting of documents.

Insurance brokers (registration) Act 1977

- Requires brokers to be registered.

Intoxicating substances (Supply) Act 1985

- Prevents the sale to young persons of intoxicating substances and equipment to aid misuse of such substances.

Knives Act 1997

- Prevents the marketing of dangerous knives, and prohibits their sale to minors.

Licensing (young persons) Act 2000

- Control on the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquor to persons under eighteen.

Malicious communications Act 1988

- Prohibits the sending or delivering letters or other articles with the purpose of causing distress or anxiety.

Mock auctions Act 1961

- Prohibits certain practices in relation to the conduct of the running of sales by auction.

Motor vehicles (safety equipment for children) Act 1991

- Amends Road Traffic Act 1988 to provide for the making of regulations as to shape, construction or other quality of restraining devices used by young children.

National lottery Act 1993

- Age restrictions on the sale of lottery tickets to young persons.

Pet animals Act 1951

- Control on the sale of pets to young persons.

Protection against cruel tethering Act 1988

- Prohibits animals from being tethered in certain circumstances.

Protection of animals Act 1911 as amended by: The protection of animals (amendment) Act 1954 and: The agriculture (miscellaneous provisions) Act 1968

- Deals with cruelty aspect of animal welfare.
- Gives power to the Court to ban persons from keeping animals.

Road traffic Acts 1988 and 1991

Road traffic Act (consequential provisions) Act 1988

Road traffic offenders Act 1988

Road traffic (foreign vehicles) Act 1972

- Prohibits the overloading of goods vehicles.
- Prohibits the sale of unroadworthy vehicles.
- Imposes minimum safety requirements on certain vehicles.

Scrap metal dealers Act 1964

- Control on scrap metal dealers acquiring scrap from under aged persons.

Solicitors Act 1974

- Controls unlicensed conveyance.

The Sunday trading Act 1994

- Reform of the complex rules on Sunday trading.

Telecommunications Act 1984

- Controls advertising, marketing and labelling of telephones and associated equipment.

Theft Act 1968 and 1978

- Prohibits obtaining property or obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception or false accounting, or going equipped to cheat.

Trading stamps Act 1964

- Regulates the issue, use and redemption of trading stamps.

Unsolicited goods and services Act 1971

Unsolicited goods and services (amendment) Act 1975

- Controls the supply of unsolicited goods and demands for payment.
- Controls trade directory entries.

Civil legislation

Local authorities have no responsibility for the following Acts. However, these Acts consolidate the trading civil law and are fundamental to the conduct of trading activities of both consumers and traders.

Arbitration Act 1996

- Protection of consumers' rights in arbitration agreements.
- Safeguarding consumers' payment by cheque.

Limitation Act 1980

- Prevents Court action being taken by parties to legal disputes after a fixed period of time.

Late payment of commercial debts (interests) Act 1998

- Provision as to interest on the late payment of certain debts.

Misrepresentation Act 1967

- Gives consumers redress for misrepresentation of contracts.

Sale of goods Act 1979
Sale and supply of goods Act 1994
Sale of goods (amendment) Act 1995

- Details the rights of purchasers and the duties of sellers in the sale of goods.

Supply of goods and services Act 1982

- Details the rights of purchasers and the duties of suppliers of services.

Torts (interference with goods) Act 1977

- Allows holders of another's goods to sell them under certain conditions.

Unfair contracts terms Act 1977

- Makes unfair contract terms void.

Legislation required to be enforced in Northern Ireland

Generally, the Trading Standards Service (TSS) in Northern Ireland has a duty to enforce the legislation listed below. [Please note that environmental health officers in local authorities in Northern Ireland have responsibility for enforcing legislation relating to consumer and food safety - contact: Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), 123 York Street, Belfast BT15 1AB Tel: 02890 249 286.]

Clean air Act 1993

- Controls the lead content of petrol and the sulphur content of diesel fuel in order to reduce atmospheric pollution.

Consumer credit Act 1974

- Provides for control of consumer credit and hire.
- Requires licensing of credit and hire traders.
- Controls credit and hire advertising.
- Controls credit and hire documentation.
- Controls format used to indicate credit charges.
- Provides powers to revoke licences of traders offering credit or hire facilities.
- Controls debt-collecting and credit reference agencies.
- Provides certain safeguards to consumers who purchase goods and services on credit.

Consumer protection (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

- Provides for liability for damage caused by defective products.
- Prohibits misleading price indications.

Education (recognised degrees) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988

- Restricts the ability to award degrees to bodies authorised by Royal Charter, Act of Parliament or in other cases designated by the Secretary of State.
- Restricts the use of terms 'Bachelor', 'Master' or 'Doctor'.

Enterprise Act 2002

- Designed to help boost productivity, enterprise and improve consumer protection.

Estate agents Act 1979

- Governs accounts in respect of clients' money.
- Controls certain activities in connection with the disposal and acquisition of interests in land by Estate Agents.
- Provides powers to ban 'unfit' persons from estate agency.

European communities Act 1972

Enables Statutory Instruments (SIs) to be made to implement community obligations. Trading Standards enforces SIs which:

- prohibit supply of goods not of prescribed standard or composition.

- Imposes safety restrictions on certain goods;
- protect consumer's interests as to holiday travel and in respect of distance selling contracts;
- control the packaging of products and their suitability for recycling;
- control the activities of traders who persist in a course of illegal conduct in a way, which is detrimental to the interests of consumers.

Fair trading Act 1973

- Promotes fair trading.
- Provides controls on persistent offenders who contravene trading laws.

Hallmarking Act 1973

- Provides protection for purchasers of precious metals in relation to composition, assaying, marking and description.
- Provides for recognition of international markings on gold, silver and platinum.

Merchant shipping Act 1979

- Controls the loading of ships with cargo. Trading Standards has responsibilities with respect to weighbridges (including attendants) used to check loads (ie the weight of heavy goods vehicles).

Prices Acts 1974 and 1975

- Provides power to regulate the price display of certain goods.
- Provides protection and price information for consumers.
- Promotes fair trading.
- Controls the manner in which prices and sale prices of goods may be indicated.

Property mis-descriptions Act 1991

- Proscribes various illegal practices associated with buying and selling of property.

Timeshare Act 1992

- Regulates the conduct of the sale of timeshare properties.

Trade descriptions Act 1968

- Prohibits misdescription of goods.
- Prohibits false claims for services, accommodation and facilities.

Trade marks Act 1994

- Creates offences for the unauthorised use of a trade mark etc., in relation to goods.

Video recording Acts 1984 and 1993

- Requires classification and labelling of videos.

Weights and measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

- Regulates weighing and measuring equipment used for trade.
- Protects against deficient quantity in sale of goods.
- Allows provision of metrological technology service to trade and industry.
- Provides guidance and control on packers' quantity control systems.

Other criminal legislation

Trading stamps Act (Northern Ireland) Act 1965

- Regulates the issue, use and redemption of trading stamps.

Unsolicited goods and services (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

- Controls the supply of unsolicited goods.
- Provides penalties for demanding payment for unsolicited goods.
- Controls trade directory entries.

Civil legislation

Whilst TSS has no responsibility for the following Acts, such civil legislation provides the basis for contract law which is applicable to consumers and businesses alike and is fundamental to the conduct of trading activities.

Arbitration Act 1996

- Prevents compulsory arbitration clauses in consumer contracts.

Cheques Act 1992

- Enables consumers to protect payment by cheque.

Limitation (NI) Order 1989

- Prevents Court action being taken by parties to legal disputes after a fixed period of time.

Misrepresentation Act (Northern Ireland) 1967

- Gives consumers civil redress for misrepresentations of goods.

Sale of goods Act 1979 As amended by sale of goods Act (amendment) Act 1994, Sale and supply of goods Act 1994 and Sale of goods Act 1995

- Details the rights of purchasers and the duties of sellers in the sale of goods.

Supply of goods and services Act 1982

- For contracts other than for the sale of goods, details the rights of purchasers and the duties of sellers.

Torts (interference with goods) Act 1977

- Allows holders of other people's goods to sell them if certain conditions are complied with.

Unfair contracts terms Act 1977

- Makes void unfair contract terms.