



January 2014

Policy on engagement with the Tobacco Industry

The Trading Standards Institute (TSI) is the professional body representing the interests of trading standards officers throughout the UK and has been in existence for over 130 years.

As an Institute we are committed to working with others to ensure that the UK markets are safe, fair and provide for healthy citizens.

At the core of our strategy is the need to support the competency of our members and the wider trading standards profession. This is achieved through a combination of training, continuing professional development, policy support and through engagement with industry and government departments.

Tackling the supply of counterfeit tobacco remains a key priority for local government as part of important work that contributes to tackling health inequalities and protecting legitimate businesses from unfair competition. Nothing in this policy should be misconstrued as the Institute stepping back from that commitment.

TSI takes seriously the UK's international obligations as a party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control 2003¹ (FCTC), in particular Article 5.3 which states; *"In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law"*. We also wish to observe the WHO Guidelines² for Implementation that set out detailed recommendations across a range of important aspects of compliance with Article 5.3.

TSI considers compliance with FCTC as being of paramount importance and the TSI board have reviewed our obligations under FCTC. While we give our upmost commitment to article 5.3, we feel that continuing some limited and transparent engagement with the tobacco industry³ plays an important role in helping our members tackle the counterfeit tobacco trade.

TSI contact with the tobacco industry will be limited to the purpose of tackling counterfeit tobacco and we will engage in a transparent and open way. TSI, therefore, has made changes to ensure that we are compliant with FCTC and will continue to review this.

We wish to continue to facilitate engagement between ourselves, our members and the tobacco industry for the purpose of tackling counterfeit tobacco. This may mean working with partnerships or forums that the tobacco industry are engaged with, if we feel it is beneficial for tackling counterfeit tobacco. TSI however, will NOT accept any direct

¹ <http://www.who.int/fctc/en/>

² http://www.who.int/fctc/guidelines/adopted/article_5_3/en/index.html

³ TSI defines the tobacco industry as tobacco importers, manufacturers, their subsidiaries or their representatives



funding or sponsorship for any service provided by TSI if the source of such funding is from the tobacco industry.

No organisation or business that promotes the views or interests of the tobacco industry (other than those relating solely to the counterfeit tobacco trade), will be permitted to attend the TSI conference or any other TSI managed activity.

In keeping with the FCTC Article 5.3 guidelines on the need for transparent records of any contact with the tobacco industry, TSI will make this policy statement publicly available on its website⁴ and will publish details of specific engagement with the tobacco industry.

TSI will keep this policy under active review.

⁴ www.tradingstandards.gov.uk