

# businesscompanion

## trading standards law explained

### Legislation etc

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### Trading Standards

For more information on the work of Trading Standards services - and the possible consequences of not abiding by the law - please see '[Trading Standards: powers, enforcement and penalties](#)'.

### In this update

Ninja swords are banned as of 1 August 2025.

Last reviewed / updated: August 2025

### Key legislation

- [Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959](#)
- [Poisons Act 1972](#)
- [Criminal Justice Act 1988](#)
- [Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(Offensive Weapons\) Order 1988](#)
- [Knives Act 1997](#)
- [Control of Poisons and Explosives Precursors Regulations 2015](#)
- [Offensive Weapons Act 2019](#)
- [Control of Poisons and Explosives Precursors Regulations 2023](#)

### Sources and attribution statement

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<https://www.gov.uk/>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/>

<https://echa.europa.eu>

<https://ec.europa.eu>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hazardous-sites-and-substances>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supplying-explosives-precursors>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-licensed-transactions-for-explosives-precursors>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-labelling-requirements-for-regulated-explosives-precursors>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-licensed-transactions-for-internet-retailers-of-explosives-precursors>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-to-the-public-on-the-control-of-explosives-precursors-regulations-2014>  
<https://report-suspicious-chemical-activity.dsa.homeoffice.gov.uk/login>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/refusing-a-sale>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/due-diligence-checks>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/knives-and-offensive-weapons-information>  
<https://www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/offensive-weapons-act-2019-draft-statutory-guidance>  
<https://www.protectuk.Police.uk/advice-and-guidance/awareness/poisons-act-1972-selling-chemicals-responsibly>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/machetes-and-other-bladed-articles-proposed-legislation>

## **< Part 2. Knives, bladed articles and bladed products**

### **Please note**

This information is intended for guidance; only the courts can give an authoritative interpretation of the law.

The guide's 'Key legislation' links may only show the original version of the legislation, although some amending legislation is linked to separately where it is directly related to the content of a guide. Information on changes to legislation can be found by following the above links and clicking on the 'More Resources' tab.

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