Central England Trading Standards Authorities

EnTSA

STOP

CHECK

GO

Know Your Status: Are You a Used Car Trader?

Legal Checklist for Anyone Selling Used Vehicles
Stop. Check. Go.

This resource gives brief general guidance only and does not cover every circumstance. You are advised to look at Business Companion and all applicable legislation to ensure you are legally compliant. If you have any specific queries on your legal obligations, you should contact your local Trading Standards Service.

Navigate Compliance with Confidence: Your Pathway to Building Customer Trust

Why It Matters:

If you regularly sell cars, you may be classed as a **trader** - even if it's a side hustle, occasional, or run from home. Misrepresenting yourself as a private seller when you're a trader is illegal and removes key consumer protections.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 and Consumer Rights Act 2015 apply to you if you're acting **in the course of a business.**

Are You a Trader? Ask Yourself:

□ Have you sold multiple vehicles in the past 12 months?

□ Are you buying cars specifically to resell?

□ Do you make repairs, clean, or advertise the vehicle before resale?

□ Do you list cars on classified sites using multiple accounts, or repeatedly?

□ Do you accept payments by bank transfer or cash regularly?

□ Do you operate from business premises, a forecourt, or home garage?

□ Do you employ someone else to help sell or maintain vehicles?
If you answered yes to any of the above — you are likely to be classed as a trader in the eyes of the law.

Why This Is a Problem:

Pretending to be a private seller when you are a trader is:

❌ An unfair trading practice under consumer law
❌ A breach of CPRs (Consumer Protection Regulations)
❌ Grounds for investigation by Trading Standards
❌ A fast track to refund or prosecution claims

As a Trader, You Must:

□ Be transparent about your trading status
□ Include your full trading name and address in adverts
□ Avoid phrases like "sold as seen" to limit liability
□ Honour consumers' rights under the Consumer Rights Act 2015
□ Understand refund, repair, and replacement rules

Need More Info?

Visit the official guide:

🔗 businesscompanion.info/selling-used-vehicles

#StopCheckGo | #UsedCarTrader | #KnowYourStatus | #ConsumerLaw

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