

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS SHOP STAFF

As an employee of a shop that sells spray paint cans, your responsibilities are:

1. Don't sell spray paint cans to people under 18 years of age, even if the sale is for, or claimed to be for, an adult, a school project or work.
2. Sight specified evidence of age documentation for a person before selling spray paint cans to that person, unless you are satisfied the person is over 18 years of age.
3. Be aware that if you sell spray paint cans to a person under 18 years of age, you will be committing an offence under section 14A of the Summary Offences Act 1981, and be personally liable for a fine of up to \$1500.

It is also highly recommended that you give written acknowledgement to your employer that you have received the above instructions and warning.

Thank you for helping to
STOP
graffiti crime in New Zealand.

For more information on the New Zealand approach to combat graffiti vandalism – the Stop Tagging Our Place (STOP) Strategy – visit:

www.justice.govt.nz/cpu/stop-strategy/introduction.html



New Zealand Government



MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE
Tāhū o te Ture

Graffiti vandalism is a problem in many New Zealand communities. It is also a crime carrying penalties ranging from fines and community work to prison sentences.

The Government has developed a nationwide approach to combat graffiti vandalism – the Stop Tagging Our Place (STOP) Strategy. The strategy includes a range of responses to address graffiti vandalism. One response is the amendment of the law to restrict the sale of spray paint cans, in an effort to combat graffiti vandalism in New Zealand.

WHY TARGET GRAFFITI AND TAGGING

Graffiti vandalism is the intentional unlawful defacing of property with writing, markings or graphics. Tagging, a form of graffiti vandalism, is the writing of a stylised signature on a wall or other property, and is the most common form of graffiti vandalism in New Zealand.

Tagging has its victims. The people whose property is defaced, the community whose property values are affected, and citizens who feel insecure in their own community, are all victims of tagging. Tagging can lead to a perception that an area is out of control and full of crime. Tagging can also lead to declining concern for the appearance of a town or city, even attracting crime.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The government has taken steps to combat graffiti vandalism. Under the Summary Offences Act 1981, the following provisions are now law:

- **section 14A – Sale of spray cans to people under 18 prohibited** – the offence of selling spray cans to people under the age of 18 years, with a penalty of a fine up to \$1500. This became law from 26 June 2008.
- **section 14B – Access to spray cans in shops to be restricted** – the offence of failing to restrict access to spray cans in shops so that they are only accessible with the help of shop staff, with a penalty of a fine up to \$1500. This will be the law from 26 September 2008.

VERIFYING A CUSTOMER'S AGE

If you are unsure of a person's age when selling spray paint cans, you must view an evidence of age document, indicating that the buyer is of or over the age of 18 years.

The **evidence of age document must be:**

- a New Zealand passport
- an overseas passport
- a driver licence issued under the Land Transport Act 1998, or
- a document issued by a specified person, organisation, body corporate, government department, Crown agency, or statutory board (for example, a HANZ 18+ card).

WHAT YOUR SHOP MUST DO TO SECURE SPRAY PAINT CANS

Under section 14A of the Act, access to spray paint cans in shops must be restricted. Your shop owner has until **26 September 2008** to make arrangements to comply with this law.