

Related web sites you might find useful

Read about the employment rights of Sunday shop workers at the DTI website

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20070603164510/>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/>

Read a factsheet on Christmas Day opening hours on the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) website

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20070603164510/>

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/>

For further information please contact the Environmental Health Unit at North Kesteven District Council:

In writing to : Head of Environmental Services
and Building Control
North Kesteven District Council
Kesteven Street
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 7EF

By telephone : 01529 414155 or 01522 699699

if calling from a Lincoln number

By fax : 01529 308394

By email: foodsafety@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Sunday Trading

A guide for businesses



Sunday Trading

Some shops that open on a Sunday face restrictions on their hours of trading.

Small shops with a floor area of up to 280 square metres (3,000 square feet) can choose their own Sunday opening hours. But they must be aware that staff who work on a Sunday may have special employment rights.

Many large shops with a floor area greater than this limit can only open for a set number of hours on a Sunday.

This guide sets out when large shops can open on a Sunday and outlines the steps they must take if they do. It also covers the restrictions on opening hours for large shops on Easter Sunday and on Christmas Day.

Sunday trading requirements for large shops

Large shops – retail businesses with a floor area of more than 280 square metres (3,000 square feet) may face restrictions on their Sunday open hours under the Sunday Trading Act 1994.

Many large shops can only open on a Sunday for a continuous period of up to six hours between 10.00 and 18.00.

But there are large shops that are exempt from Sunday trading rules.

For more information, see the section in this guide on “large shops which are exempt from Sunday trading rules.”

If your business is affected by the rules, you must display notices of the six-hour period during which you plan to trade on Sundays in a conspicuous position both inside and outside your shop.

You also need to check whether you require permission from North Kesteven District Council to load and unload goods before 09.00 on a Sunday. North Kesteven District Council contact details are given on the reverse of this leaflet.

There are significant fines for failing to comply with Sunday trading requirements.

There are also requirements for large shops on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day. See the section in this guide on the requirements for large shops on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day.

Remember that workers in any size of shop that opens on a Sunday may have special employment rights.

Large shops which are exempt from Sunday trading rules

Some categories of large shop are exempt from the restrictions placed on opening hours by the Sunday Trading Act 1994. They are:

- Shops such as off-licences that sell only or mainly alcohol

- Shops in airports and railway stations
- Shops at service stations
- Registered pharmacies that don't sell any goods other than medicinal products and medical and surgical appliances
- Shops on a farm that mainly sell their own produce
- Shops that wholly or mainly sell motor or bicycle supplies and accessories
- Shops that only supply goods to aircraft or sea-going vessels on arrival at, or departure from, a port, harbour or airport
- Exhibition stands selling goods

Remember that your employees may still have special employment rights if they're required to work in your shop on Sundays.

Requirements for large shops on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day

As well as complying with restrictions on opening hours on normal Sundays, large stores of more than 280 square metres (3,000 square feet) mustn't open on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day. Small shops are free to open when they choose on these days.

There are significant fines for failing to comply with these requirements.

Remember that your employees may have special employment rights if they're required to work in your shop on Sundays.