

Updated Edition – May 2018

A BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES - COVERMOUNTS

Covermounts and other promotional gifts are used to enhance the appeal of magazines to consumers. Often such items pose no Health & Safety risk or legal compliance issue regarding distribution, selling or disposal. This Best Practice document is a guide for publishers on the types of item which do carry additional requirements. It highlights those items which PPA recommends publishers do NOT use and also those items which should only be used after due consideration. Care should be taken at all times to avoid potential risks associated with gifts in themselves and consideration should be given to safe and legal disposal of quantities left over after the sales period.

Over and above the advice given here in good faith, it must be noted that individual companies carry their own responsibility for being aware of legal compliance, for their own corporate responsibility, and for maintaining awareness of legal and good practice developments. Where covermounts or other gifts are used, they should always conform to Trading Standards requirements in relation to safety endorsement, user age limits etc.

They should always be sufficiently well secured to or contained with the core product in such a way as to prevent the bar code of the publication from being obscured.

It is worth noting that while magazines are 0% rated for VAT, covermounts are often liable for VAT and so this should be taken into consideration. If a gift is added or indeed removed for any reason it will change the VAT-able element applicable to that magazine. If this occurs you must advise the relevant wholesalers to ensure that they apply the VAT correctly to comply with HMRC.

Publishers & distributors are encouraged to support initiatives by the PPA's Environment Committee on the usage of plastic bagging and wrapping film. Such materials, while beneficial as promotional aids, should be used within a sustainable environmental framework and in accordance with industry best practice and regulatory requirements. PPA Environment Best Practice.

A growing number of supply chain partners are experiencing challenges in handling magazine product with certain types of covermounts. Examples include:

- **WH Smith Travel – Manchester Airport security authorities imposing stricter security monitoring of covermounts which contain liquids or may be considered dangerous (toy guns, sharp point, etc)**
- **Wholesalers – regarding covermounts which may slow down or damage recycling equipment at recycling facilities.**
- **Freight Forwarders & International Agents – Covermounts which may breach air and sea port security regulations (liquids, products which may be considered dangerous)**

These examples together with the growing need for Distributors to cost efficiently and effectively manage their magazine portfolio through the supply chain, are suggesting they need to find a practical way of assessing the suitability of the covermounts which are used, depending on their distribution channels (i.e. UK newstrade, travel, export, etc) and subsequently how they record and communicate what covermounts are on each Title/Issue to the relative supply chain stakeholder.

1. Not Acceptable – Significant Direct Legal Compliance Issues

Publishers are strongly recommended NOT to use any of the following as cover mounted gifts, inserts, or co-bagged items as to do so may breach ADR (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) legislation and/or health and safety regulations:

- a) Explosive substances and articles containing explosive substances (Fireworks, Flares, etc);
- b) Gas: compressed, liquefied or dissolved under pressure;
- c) Flammable Liquids (Aerosols, Lighters, Lighter Refills, Glue, Liquid oil or solvent based paints, Christmas Crackers, Cooking Oil, etc);
- d) Flammable Solids or Gases (Firelighters, Matches, Butane Gas, etc);
- e) Oxidising Substances & Organic Peroxides (Mercury Thermometers, Bleaches, etc);
- f) Toxic and Infectious Substance (Thinners, Solvents, etc);
- g) Radioactive Substances;
- h) Corrosive Substances (Wet cell batteries, etc); and
- i) Miscellaneous Harmful Substances (Medicines, Mace Spray, Weed Killer, etc).

Should such items be used, by design or unwittingly, the Publisher carries a legal responsibility to appropriately package, label, document and inform others in the supply chain. Any additional costs incurred through the chain will be at the full expense of the Publisher.

2. Not Acceptable – Significant Corporate Responsibility Risk

Publishers are strongly recommended NOT to use the following, and similar items, as cover mounted gifts, inserts, or co-bagged items. To do so may bring exposure to corporate responsibility risk if subsequently involved in any accident or media exposure highlighting the potential irresponsibility risks in issuing such items:

- **Knives – NOT ACCEPTABLE.** Razors, Fish Hooks, Replica Weapons, and generically similar products. Adult content materials unless clearly targeted at such an audience and clearly indicated as such.

Items should be considered for their objective sense and responsibility - many items could be deemed inappropriate by an objective audience.

3. Not Acceptable – Specific Airport Security Regulations

Airports have specific policies as to which items are not allowed for sale in terminals. Policies vary between airports and are regularly updated. It is highly advisable to

specifically check airport websites. The following provide general guidance but are not exhaustive:

- BAA Heathrow etc: Heathrow BAA Airports – Heathrow, Stansted, Edinburgh, Glasgow
- MAG Manchester etc: Manchester Airport Group (MAG) - Manchester, East Midlands, Bournemouth & Humberside
- Gatwick: Gatwick Airport
- Luton: Luton Airport

4. Not Recommended – Significant Hindrance to Recycling

Publishers are **recommended NOT to use the following**, and similar items, as cover mounted gifts, inserts, or co-bagged items as to do so may severely inhibit recycle-ability of the core magazine product to which it is attached:

- Water soluble inks and dyes, for example in crayons and lipsticks;
- toxic products such as batteries which require specialist disposal;
- fabrics and textiles such as bags, towels, flip flops etc;
- heavy gauge plastic bags.

5. Acceptable but Caution Required

The following articles can be used but **subject to prior notification** to wholesalers and retailers so that appropriate health and safety precautions can be implemented:

- Glass products;
- canned drinks;
- dry cell batteries;
- objects larger than the magazine;
- sharp or pointed objects such as knitting needles, metal scissors, metal nail files, hand tools, safety razors etc;
- Beauty and Bathroom products (including eye drops).

All should be contained within appropriate packaging and are properly labelled for transport, handling and display. Be aware that sharp metal objects will not be accepted for sale at airports and may need a guard over sharp ends to avoid injury to handlers.

6. Acceptable subject to specific Conditions

a) Toys, provided they meet BSI Kitemark and CE Mark regulations.

b) Foodstuffs provided that they:

(i) Conform to safety standards relevant to the product; and

(ii) The sell by date does not expire during on sale period of the magazine/title.

(iii) Are suitably packaged and labelled

c) DVDs, CDs, and similar media products (referred to as DVD hereafter for simplicity), provided they meet the regulatory requirements by carrying appropriate age guidance as follows:

i) The DVD must carry symbols indicating the age rating applicable to that DVD;

ii) The label or symbol should be printed on both the front and reverse of the DVD cover so that it is visible to the buyer. If the symbol on the DVD is visible through the cover it is not required to be printed on that side of the cover. If the spine of the cover is not less than 2 centimeters in any dimension, the spine must also carry the symbol;

- iii) One of the symbols must also be accompanied by the relevant explanatory statement within a single rectangular shaped frame;
- iv) Each symbol must meet the minimum size requirements such that the relevant letters/numbers must be at least 5mm high excluding any shadow;
- v) No other printing or labelling must obscure the symbol on the finished DVD cover;
- vi) All DVDs planned for circulation within the Irish Republic must carry the appropriate age rating symbol as defined by the Irish Film Censor's Office (www.ifco.ie) shown to the required format.
- vii) Any wrapper around the covermounted magazine should not obscure the label or symbol from the buyer such that:
 - The label or symbol on the DVD remains clearly visible through the wrap; or
 - If the label or symbol might be or is obscured by the wrapper, then the same symbol must be printed prominently on the front of the wrapper, and preferably also on the reverse, remain clearly visible during handling of the wrapped magazine, and it is recommended that the relevant letters/numbers are at least 10mm high.
- viii) The publisher/distributor must advise the wholesaler of any DVDs with a rating of 18.
- ix) Publishers should ensure that interactive games are labelled according to the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) age rating system, see PEGI Age Ratings

7. Disposal

Note that disposal of covermounts can be to landfill. However, certain products or packaging may cause contamination or be in breach of ADR regulations and will not be acceptable for such general disposal. Any such material will be disposed of by wholesalers or distributors in a safe manner and in line with Governmental guidance, or relevant best practice, at the full expense of the publisher or distributor.

8. Key Examples to Consider

- a) Knives – Not acceptable under any circumstances
- b) Other sharp objects – Very careful consideration should be given to age of audience, Health & Safety issues for all handlers in the supply chain through to consumers;
- c) Certain types of gift such as toy guns or liquids/gels/pastes are unacceptable for sale in airport terminals and will not pass through security checks. BAA have issued specific guidance at: <http://www.heathrowairport.com/portal/page/Heathrow^General^Airport+infrmation^Security+contro+Security+FAQs/#liquids>
- d) Batteries - potential transport issues for distributor and wholesaler (ADR) and disposal (WEEE/RoHS) (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment & Restriction of Hazardous Substances) implications;
- e) Electrical Equipment - disposal by wholesaler, distributor and consumer (WEEE/RoHS);
- f) Replica Weapons - consider age of target audience and accessibility for malicious purposes;
- g) Glass - Health & Safety issues for all handlers in the supply chain through to consumers, if breakages occur;
- h) Wire or Metal Bands - Health & Safety issues for all in the supply chain where used as a product tie or used within products as strengtheners;
- i) Toys - consider age of audience - unsuitable for certain age groups (BS Kitemark and CE Mark);
- j) Malodorous Products - some items may give off either unpleasant or misleading odours such as smelling of natural gas or chemical leakage, which may adversely affect all in the supply chain through to consumers;
- k) Liquids or Creams - breakage or bursting of containers or sachets can affect other products.

9. Notification by Publisher – of “non recommended”, “caution”, or “conditional” items

- a) Publishers should advise distributors, wholesalers AND retailers, of any potential issue, when selling-in as soon as is reasonably practicable;
- b) The wholesaler must be notified at least 5 days before the on sale date of any DVD or similar carrying an 18 rating;
- c) Publishers are responsible for ensuring that these Best Practice Guidelines are read, understood acknowledged and implemented by covermount buyers;
- d) Publishers should contact the **PPA on info@ppa.co.uk or call 0207 404 4166** for further assistance if unsure about the potential impact of a particular covermount. In turn the PPA will liaise where required with the ANMW.
- e) Over and above the content of these guidelines and any additional advice given in good faith, the ultimate responsibility lies with the Publisher to meet its legal requirements and manage its corporate responsibility affairs with recognition of the impact of Publisher actions on the sector.

REGULATORY REGIME

1. British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)

- a) The BBFC is an independent, non-governmental body funded through the fees it charges to those who submit films, videos, DVDs and digital games for classification.
- b) The BBFC classifies films on behalf of the local authorities who license cinemas under the Licensing Act 2003.
- c) The BBFC classifies videos, DVDs and some digital works under the Video Recordings Act 1984. (The digital works covered by the VRA 1984 are those whose exemption is forfeited under section 2(2) because they depict human sexual activity, gross violence or other matters of concern.)
- d) The BBFC will not classify material which it believes to be in breach of the criminal law.

2. Video Recording (Labelling) Regulations

Reg 4:

- (1) the appropriate symbol shall be shown.(a) on the face of every disc...;
- (2) the appropriate symbol shall be shown on the spine ... of every case or cover in which a video recording is kept unless one of the dimensions of the spine is less than 2 centimetres.
- (3) the appropriate symbol shall be shown on one of the largest faces or the largest face, as appropriate of the case or cover in which a video recording is kept and the appropriate statement and the appropriate symbol shall be shown together on another of the largest faces or another face other than the spine, as appropriate, of the case or cover unless -

Reg 9 (1)

Note elements in italics do not apply to videos included in a video recording lawfully supplied or offered for supply in UK before 1 November 1995:

- (1) Where under these regulations *the appropriate symbol, the unique title or the appropriate explanatory statement, or combination of them is or are* required to be shown it or they shall be clearly legible and indelible and no part of it or them shall be hidden or obscured by any other written or pictorial matter or by any other matter.
- (2) Where under these regulations the appropriate symbol is or the appropriate explanatory statement and the appropriate symbol are required to be shown in a case or cover in which a video recording is kept or on the spine or one spine, as appropriate, of such case or cover it or they shall be shown in such manner as it remains or they remain clearly visible where that case or cover is kept in a cover.

3. Video Packaging Review Committee (VPRC)

The VPRC is a voluntary scheme of self-regulation by the industry which regulates the sleeve of videos/DVDs. Approved packaging carries the VPRC logo.

Packaging is assessed by the BBFC in the first instance and referred to the VPRC as appropriate.

See **bbfc - Video Packaging Regulations** for further details.

3. ADR (Transport of Dangerous Goods)

Carriage of dangerous goods in the UK has recently been brought into line with the European ADR Directive.

Dangerous goods are divided into 9 UN hazard classes:	Explosive substances and articles	Class 5.2	Organic peroxides
Class 1			
Class 2	Gas: compressed, liquefied or dissolved under pressure	Class 6.1	Toxic substances
Class 6.2		Infectious substances	
Class 3	Flammable liquids	Class 7	Radioactive substances
Class 4.1	Flammable solids	Class 8	Corrosive substances
Class 4.2	Substances liable to spontaneous combustion	Class 9	Miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles (Class 9 covers