

News Release

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RETAILERS REMINDED OF DANGEROUS GOODS RULES FOLLOWING CONVICTION

The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has today urged retailers to carefully follow existing safety procedures when delivering restricted goods to customers by air. It follows the successful prosecution of an online discount retailer for shipping an acid-based drain cleaner by air as a routine postal item, in breach of the 'dangerous goods' regulations. The package split open, releasing the liquid and injuring two postal workers employed by Jersey Post.

Brooks Discount Limited, trading as Top Brand Discounts 4 U, pleaded guilty to the offence at Bournemouth Magistrates' Court on 9 April 2015. The incident had occurred in July 2014. Carl Brooks, Managing Director of the company, pleaded guilty to the charge on behalf of the company. The Magistrates fined the company £5,000 and ordered it to pay compensation of £800 and £250 respectively to the injured staff. The Magistrates also ordered the company to pay the CAA £12,000 costs.

The Court heard the company had sold two one litre bottles of One Shot Liquid Drain Cleaner online and posted them to a customer in Jersey.

The bottles were carried on a cargo aircraft flight from Bournemouth Airport to Jersey. When the package arrived at the sorting office in Jersey it was leaking and two members of Jersey Post staff suffered minor chemical burns as a result. The sorting office was evacuated and the emergency services were called.

As it contains a corrosive substance, the product is subject to dangerous goods regulations which means it must be packaged and labelled accordingly – Royal Mail also bans such items from the post. The CAA said online retailers in particular should fully understand the regulations relating to dangerous goods when shipping orders to customers. Many seemingly harmless products, such as household cleaners and even toiletries, are classified as dangerous goods. More information is available on the [Dangerous Goods](#) pages of the CAA website.

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