

*“Environmental Health Officers have investigated the release of odours from Dishwater & Co and have demanded the installation of a purification system.”*

When many new businesses start up, they must get relevant permits and licences from the authorities.

Failing to comply with legislation, byelaws, standards, and permit or licence conditions that apply to your business represents a significant risk. And if you're caught, the authorities could stop your production and even prosecute you.

If an enforcing authority intervenes in your activities, for example to issue notices, warnings or recommendations it's usually a sign that you're not managing your affairs properly.

## Tips

- Fire, health, safety and environmental authorities can conduct inspections of your premises. At these times, and at other times if you ask them, they can give you advice.
- Use a reliable and experienced accountant for tax and financial advice – they know the tax laws and can give good advice on tax planning. When using an external accounting firm, keep in mind that your business is still responsible.

## Useful links

Health and Safety Executive – Local authority enforcement  
[www.hse.gov.uk/lau/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/)

Health and Safety Executive – Looking after your business  
[www.hse.gov.uk/business/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/business/index.htm)

HM Revenue and Customs  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)