

ACCC recent releases

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For business



Authorising and notifying cartel conduct

Recent amendments to the *Trade Practices Act 1974* include provisions prohibiting cartel conduct and establishing both civil and criminal penalties for it.

Under amendments to authorisation and collective bargaining notification provisions, businesses may now seek immunity from the ACCC where such arrangements are in the public interest.

2 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 26 7 (electronic only)



Children's portable folding cots—mandatory standards guide

Manufacturers, distributors, importers, wholesalers, retailers and hire companies of children's portable folding cots should read this guide to familiarise themselves with the hazards of, and the mandatory standards for, this product.

21 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 19 9



Competing fairly DVD

Competing fairly is an overview of four issues under the Trade Practices Act that affect the day-to-day operations of a small business—advertising and selling, warranties and refunds, supply issues and collective bargaining. The DVD features a number of scenarios in which issues under the Act arise and explains the rights and obligations of small business owners in each situation.

DVD, 22 minutes, 2009



News for business: Component pricing—restaurants, cafés and hotels

Under the Trade Practices Act advertising must correctly represent the good or service being offered for sale, including its price and any other key features or characteristics, to enable consumers to compare similar products and to make informed purchasing decisions.

Component pricing is commonly used by cafes, restaurants and hotels, so it is important that owners of these types of businesses restaurant are aware of some recent changes to pricing rules. *Component pricing—restaurants, cafés and hotels* tells you about these changes and how they will affect you.

4 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 38 0



Outreach newsletter, July 2009

The *Outreach* newsletter covers the activities of ACCC's regional outreach managers in local and regional communities.

4 pp., 2009, ISSN 1835 3770 (electronic only)



Product safety bulletin, May 2009—Flotation toys and swimming aids

The ACCC is keen to alert suppliers to requirements of two new mandatory product safety standards: flotation and aquatic toys and swimming and flotation aids.

These new mandatory product safety standards replace a standard declared in March 1992 that covered similar categories of toys and equipment, and was based on *Australian Standard 1900–1991, Flotation toys and swimming aids for children*. This Australian standard has been revised and is now known as *AS 1900–2002, Flotation aids for water familiarization and swimming tuition*.

2 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 18 2 (electronic only)



Product safety bulletin, August 2009—Lead and certain elements in children's toys and finger-paints

This bulletin outlines acceptable levels of lead and certain elements in children's toys and finger-paints. These levels are informed by a permanent ban issued on 8 April 2009 and a mandatory standard that will come into effect on 1 January 2010.

The bulletin also provides information on hazards relating to lead and certain elements in children's toys and finger-paints, and suppliers' compliance responsibilities under the ban and the new mandatory standard.

2 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 31 1 (electronic only)

Unit pricing: a guide for grocery retailers—audio format

This guide explains what grocery retailers need to know about unit pricing.

Audio format, 2009 (MP3 files; downloadable)

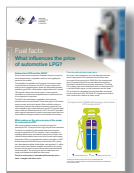
For consumers

Fuel facts, fact sheet series



What influences the price of unleaded petrol?

Petrol is traded internationally and around 20 per cent of petrol consumed in Australia is imported—so the price we pay at the pump is influenced by the international benchmark price. The pump price also includes taxes and margins (wholesale and retail) and some other costs.



What influences the price of automotive LPG?

Automotive LPG is an internationally traded commodity—so the price we pay at the pump is influenced by the international benchmark price. The pump price also includes taxes and margins (wholesale and retail) and other costs.



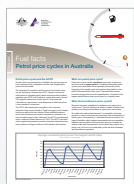
What influences the price of diesel?

Diesel is traded internationally and around 40 per cent of diesel consumed in Australia is imported. This means that the price we pay at the pump is influenced by the international benchmark price. The pump price also includes taxes and margins (wholesale and retail) and some other costs.



Fuel prices in regional Australia

The prices of fuels often differ between the city and the country and even between country towns. Generally, combinations of the level of local competition, the volume of fuel sold at any particular retail site and the additional freight and storage costs associated with different country areas will influence the different prices for fuel products sold around the country.



Petrol price cycles in Australia

Petrol price cycles are the consistent movement of prices up and down over a regular period. In markets where petrol price cycles occur, retail petrol prices generally rise quickly at the beginning of the weekly cycle but are then discounted to a low point for the remainder of the cycle. This fact sheet explains the existence of price cycles in fuel markets in Australia, including what they are, the factors that influence price cycles, where they occur and how consumers can benefit from them.

Fact sheets, 2009.

ACCC reports



ACCC telecommunications reports 2007–08: Telecommunications competitive safeguards; Changes in the prices paid for telecommunications services in Australia

The ACCC issued the telecommunications reports for 2007–08 to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy on 3 April 2009. The reports were tabled in the Australian Parliament on 16 June 2009.

158 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 12 0



Assessing cross-subsidy in Australia Post 2007–08

Each year the ACCC issues a report on its analysis of Australia Post's regulatory accounts for the preceding year, to determine whether Australia Post has used revenue from its reserved services to cross-subsidise its non-reserved services. (Reserved services are services for which Australia Post has a statutory monopoly; non-reserved services are services it provides in competition with other businesses.)

Assessing cross-subsidy in Australia Post 2007–08 should be read in conjunction with the ACCC's principles for the disclosure of information it receives under the record-keeping rules.

27 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 29 8 (electronic only)

About the ACCC



ACCC compliance and enforcement policy

The compliance and enforcement policy sets out the principles adopted by the ACCC to achieve compliance with the law and to outline its enforcement powers, functions, priorities, strategies and regime.

4 pp., 2009 (electronic only)

ACCCCount 1 April to 30 June 2009

The publication reports on ACCC activities from 1 April to 30 June 2009. It details the ACCC's activities in the enforcement of the Trade Practices Act, merger reviews, compliance initiatives, adjudication issues, economic regulation, international cooperation and interaction with other Australian competition, consumer protection and regulatory agencies.

Subscribe online at www.accc.gov.au to receive regular issues of this publication.

67 pp., 2009 (electronic only)



ACCC immunity policy for cartel conduct July 2009

The ACCC's revised policy for the application of immunity in relation to cartel conduct aims to provide greater certainty for immunity applicants so that the ACCC is better able to detect and break up hard-core cartels operating in Australia.

4 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 30 4 (electronic only)



ACCC immunity policy interpretation guidelines July 2009 (electronic only)

This publication provides guidance on interpreting the ACCC's policy on immunity for cartel conduct.

18 pp., 2009, ISBN 978 1 921581 30 4 (electronic only)

For regulated industries

Water trading rules position paper—September 2009

Water market rules and water charge rules—enforcement guide