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NEWS RELEASE

Toy Retailers Association Statement in relation to Imitation Guns

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The Toy Retailers Association totally support the police stance on children carrying imitation firearms.

Some 3 years ago following discussion with the Home Office and specialist firearms officers in the Metropolitan Police a code of practice was adopted by toy manufacturers and retailers alike.

As a result no member of our association or responsible Toy Retailer should be selling imitation or replica weapons. The only toys on sale will be totally distinguishable from real, replica or imitation weapons by their very bright colouring or the fact that they are based on pre 1870's designs such as western or pirate guns.

Replicas, imitations, air guns, starting pistols and BB Guns are not toys and are not sold as toys by responsible retailers.

The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 Regulations (2007) and our Codes of Practice make it clear that all the products described may only be sold to adults, and never directly to children.

The Code of Practice as agreed with the Home Office is downloadable at <http://www.toyretailersassociation.co.uk/press/pressrels.php> and also at <http://www.equitoy.com/if.pdf> or <http://www.btha.co.uk/dynamic/documents/toysafety/Toy%20Gun%20Code.pdf>

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Toy Retailers Association (formerly British Association of Toy Retailers) acts as both a watchdog and persuader to ensure fair play for toy retailers. It also represents the toy retail sector on government panels and safety organisations in the UK informing and advising members on current and future legislation, as well as ethical practices in respect of toy safety, requirements under the Health and Safety Executive, consumer and employment rights.
2. In association with The British Toy and Hobby Association (BTHA), all Toy Retailers Association members are Approved Lion Mark Retailers - that is they adhere to a strict Code of Practice on selling toys.
3. The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, amongst other things, amends firearms legislation to ban the sale, import and manufacture of realistic imitations and prohibits the sale of any

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imitation firearm to persons under the age of 18 years. Regulations introduced in 2007 under The Act state “a colour is to be regarded as unrealistic for a real firearm only if it is a colour specified in paragraph (2) or if the imitation firearm is made of transparent material.

(2) The colours specified in this paragraph are—

- a. bright red;
- b. bright orange;
- c. bright yellow;
- d. bright green;
- e. bright pink;
- f. bright purple; and
- g. bright blue.

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