



Jonathan Harrison
Director
Association of Cycle Traders

By Email: jonathan.harrison@actsmart.biz

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Dear Jonathan,

Preventing fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters

As an organisation representing businesses including those involved the supply, repair, modification or conversion of e-bikes and e-scooters, you will be aware of the increase in the use of these products and the rising number of fires involving them.

Government is prioritising action to tackle the complex issues related to these fires. In 2023, there were almost 200 fires across the UK involving e-bikes, resulting in serious injuries and at least 10 people losing their lives. As the UK's national product regulator, the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is leading a wide programme of activity to understand and address product safety risks involving e-bikes, e-scooters and lithium-ion batteries. A summary of our activity can be found here: [OPSS regulatory activity update: e-bikes, e-scooters and lithium-ion batteries - GOV.UK](#). This includes recently published independent research available here: [Government publishes research report into e-bike battery safety - GOV.UK](#).

Fires involving e-bikes, e-scooters and their associated components including lithium-ion batteries, chargers and conversions kits, relate primarily to fire and explosion risk from the lithium-ion batteries they use. Poorly designed or manufactured lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters present a risk of thermal runaway which can result in a serious fire or explosion. In December 2024, the Secretary of State published statutory guidelines for producers and distributors setting out the safety mechanisms that lithium-ion batteries for e-bikes must contain to address the risk of thermal runaway. The guidelines can be found here: [Statutory guidelines on lithium-ion battery safety for e-bikes - GOV.UK](#).

We know there is an active market in the repair and modification of e-bikes and businesses conducting this work. Our research indicates that these activities are connected to fire incidents. OPSS has been working with Local Authority Trading Standards teams to reach locally based businesses that provide such services to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities and how they can manage the risks arising from their business.

To support this work OPSS developed guidance for business on the risks and responsibilities associated with carrying out repairs, modifications and conversions to e-bikes and e-scooters. The guidance can now be found here: [Preventing e-bike / e-scooter fires | Business Companion](#).

OPSS is committed to working closely with stakeholders on this issue and I would ask that you share these documents with relevant businesses and other interested parties in your network.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Sarah A. Smith

Sarah Smith
Deputy Chief Executive