

# INTRODUCTION

National Trading Standards (NTS) allocates approximately £1.2 million each year to fund the Safety at Ports and Borders Teams. This money funds trading standards teams located at 12 sea ports, airports and postal hubs across England.

The role of the Safety at Ports and Borders Teams is to prevent unsafe and non-compliant goods coming into

the country. The work helps protect consumers by preventing injuries, deaths and fires, and safeguards reputable business.

NTS commissioned an independent review into the Safety at Ports and Borders programme to identify the cost benefits and the wider challenges and opportunities facing the programme.

## THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW FOUND:



During the same time period the teams prevented more than **4.7 million non-compliant items** from entering the country

Stopping these goods from entering the country saved the British economy an estimated **£54 million**

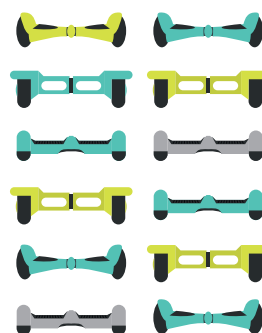
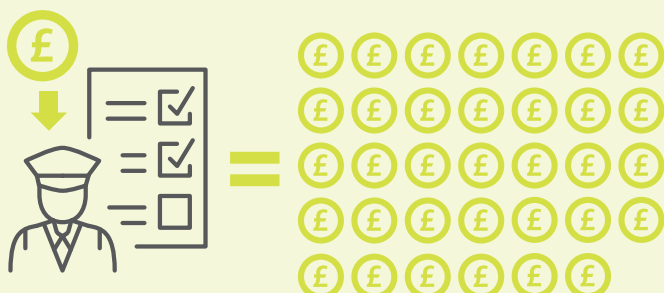


It is estimated that if these items had entered the country they could have led to **3 deaths, 1,126 major injuries** and **732 fires**

Items prevented from entering the country by the teams included **children's toys, cosmetics** and a range of **electrical products**



The benefit to cost ratio of the NTS Safety at Ports and Borders Teams is **very high, totalling 34:1** in 2016. This means that for every pound spent, the teams generated £34 of benefit



**40,000**

Ahead of Christmas 2015 the teams prevented nearly **40,000 unsafe hoverboards**, that year's 'must have' gift, from entering the UK and ending up under the Christmas trees of consumers

## Quotes from the independent report into National Trading Standards' Safety at Ports and Borders programme:

*'The NTS Safety at Ports and Borders' Teams [whose staff are based within local authority trading standards services] are highly effective at identifying both unsafe and non-compliant goods, due to their experience and transferable knowledge from working within product safety environments.'*

*'Our broad view is that NTS Safety at Ports and Borders is a highly effective operation.'*

*'Since the previous report in 2014 we have observed meaningful improvements in both the specificity and quantity of useful data collected'*

**NATIONAL  
TRADING  
STANDARDS**

Protecting Consumers  
Safeguarding Businesses

For more information about the work of the NTS Ports and Borders Teams, please visit:  
[www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/work-areas/safety-at-ports-and-borders-teams/](http://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/work-areas/safety-at-ports-and-borders-teams/)

National Trading Standards covers England and Wales