






Annex N

Prohibited items list

Prohibited articles are graded according to their seriousness and perceived threat to security and safety within a prison. Prohibited articles are classified as List A, List B or List C articles:

List A and B articles:

Grading of Articles		Article Type	Offences/Penalties*
A		Drugs Explosives Firearms Ammunition Any other offensive weapon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years • An unlimited fine • Both.
B		Alcohol Mobile telephones Cameras Sound recording devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years • An unlimited fine • Both
C		Tobacco Vapes and e-cigarettes Money Clothing Food Drink Letters Papers Books Tools Information Technology equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum penalty is a fine not exceeding level 3 (currently £1000).

A person (including prisoners, staff, social and professional visitors) commits an offence if he / she carries out any of the following listed activities without obtaining prior authorisation:

- brings or throws or otherwise conveys List A or B items in or out of a prison by whatever means;
- causes another person to do so;
- leaves a List A or B item in any place (in or out of the prison) intending it to come into the possession of a prisoner;
- knowing a person to be a prisoner gives a List A or B item to him / her.

List C articles:

A person (including prisoners, staff, social and professional visitors) commits an offence if he / she carries out any of the following listed activities without obtaining prior authorisation:

- brings, throws or otherwise conveys a List C article into a prison intending it to come into the possession of a prisoner;
- causes another person to bring, throw or otherwise convey a List C article into a prison intending it to come into the possession of a prisoner;
- brings, throws or otherwise conveys a List C article out of a prison on behalf of a prisoner;
- causes another person to bring, throw or otherwise convey a List C article out of a prison on behalf of a prisoner;
- leaves a List C article in any place (whether inside or outside a prison) intending it to come into the possession of a prisoner;
- or while inside a prison, gives a List C article to a prisoner.

Authorisations for legitimate use and possession:

Sound recording devices:

- Solicitors and other legal advisers to prisoners have been issued with central authority to bring and/or possess in prison sound recording devices to allow them to record interviews with their clients.
- They have also been given central authority to take sound recordings out of the prison. There is, therefore, no need for prisons to issue local authorisations for these devices.
- These recording devices can be digital or mechanical devices. They must not contain a camera, video recorder or mobile phone.
- These devices must not be passed to prisoners.
- They must be logged on entry and again on exit to the prison to ensure that they are not left behind.