

Competition Law Do's and Don'ts

All BVRLA meetings and calls are subject to the application of competition law and therefore must be conducted in compliance with competition law.

Attendees are reminded that failure to comply with competition law may bring with it serious consequences for them as individuals and their companies. Such consequences include heavy fines and, in certain cases, the imposition of criminal penalties and sentences.

Members must refrain from exchanging any commercially sensitive or strategic information between competitors, either directly or indirectly via a third party, can result in an anti-competitive agreement.

BVRLA has developed the following guidelines to help you adhere with the competition rules. If you have any doubt, then you should seek advice – BVRLA senior staff are at hand should you have any questions.



DO NOT

- Discuss individual company prices, price changes, terms of sale and profit margins.
- Discuss information as to future plans of individual companies, production, distribution or marketing plans, including proposed new territories or customers.
- Discuss matters relating to individual suppliers or customers or any commercially sensitive information.



BE WARY

YOU MUST SEEK ADVICE IF:

- You receive information from another competitor, or are asked to provide information, that you believe is confidential or commercially sensitive.

ALWAYS:

- Ensure a detailed agenda has been circulated in advance and is followed closely and minutes of the meeting are recorded and kept.
- Begin the meeting with the reminder that the attendees should not discuss commercially sensitive information under any circumstances.
- Be prepared to halt a meeting if conversations cross into potentially unlawful territory.



NO PROBLEM

- Discussion on any matter relating to the aims and objectives of the committee – for example issues of law and policy affecting the industry.
- Discussing BVRLA policies, lobbying tactics & strategies, and other BVRLA activities.
- Discussing information about industry activities obtained from third parties or other media sources provided the availability of the information has not been arranged with a competitor.
- Discussion with other trade bodies or organisations which will be of general benefit to the industry.