

News Release

Date: June 2007

Cowboys made to pay up

FENSA have established a cowboy stoppers website at www.cowboystoppers.co.uk. This will enable observant or enquiring installers to register their concerns about another installer, anonymously, as well as containing useful information about how to spot a cowboy. The site was launched in May 2007.

Twice recently, FENSA has caught 'cowboy' companies falsely using the FENSA Logo, who have since been forced to pay heavy fines.

An installer based in Yorkshire, was fined £4000 plus £700 costs in March this year. The fine was made under the Trade Descriptions Act including misuse of the FENSA logo. This was reported to FENSA by a consumer, and followed up by Mary Hewett with Yorkshire Trading Standards.

In addition, in December last year a property services company based in Neath were fined £2000 under the Trade descriptions act including misuse of the FENSA Logo. This was also reported by a consumer and followed up with Neath Trading Standard. This investigation included the production of a Section 9 Witness Statement by FENSA which is used for Court Purposes.

Graham Hinett, the Chief Executive at FENSA, commented "It is important to ensure that installers who are misusing the FENSA Logo, not self certifying compliance under Approved Document L or registering notifiable installations to Building Control are exposed and brought to the attention of trading standards. This means that FENSA Registered Businesses can focus on self certifying with FENSA, without their reputation and efforts being compromised by installers who chose not to comply. These cases highlight the importance of our Cowboy Stoppers website."

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