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ILLEGAL RAMPS MUST GO

01 December 2006 - Show Room Events

Event company fights "unsafe" display ramps

Auto retail event and display company, Showroom Events, is fighting back against apparently illegal and unsafe copies of its SeeSaw display unit which are appearing on dealer forecourts. The company has set up a £100,000 fighting fund to support the action of its subsidiaries, CarStages.co.uk and rentAmp.co.uk



The purpose of the fund is to "environmentally" remove and destroy what Showroom Events terms as "illegal copies" of its SeeSaw display. The company is also offering to replace these with genuine units at cost price so dealers are not left without display support.

Showroom Events is believed to be the largest independent supplier of vehicle display equipment and has been in the business over 15 years.

Danny Lee, Showroom Events Director said: "The £100,000 fund was agreed by shareholders to fight UK copyright issues and protect our image. We hope to remove unsafe "copy" displays, which do not abide by Health & Safety law, from dealer forecourts.

"This will protect dealers from possible heavy fines and remove the public risk of injury. Quite clearly many dealers are unaware that all lifting equipment in a place of employment must hold the relevant test paperwork."

Health & Safety Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations 1988 (LOLER 1998) clearly state: 'Failure to comply with LOLER is a criminal offence liable to lead to enforcement action or prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive.'

The responsibility is with managers and employers to ensure all their employees work in a safe environment. Fines of up to £20,000 or even imprisonment are possible if a dealer is seen to be negligent in his duty.

Mr Lee warned: "It's easy for a local engineer without any welding qualifications to build something which is supposed to carry the massive weight of a car. Cutting prices and corners often go hand in hand, especially when these people simply copy a known product.

"We have served the motor industry for almost 20 years and want to ensure our name is not destroyed by inferior look-alike products on forecourts. Where feasible we will go after those who pass off, infringe our copyrights or harm our image."

Dealers are advised to check badges on the side their displays and send an email to copies@carstages.co.uk if these are missing or they feel they have been "duped" by a manufacturer. Showroom Events can quickly identify legitimate units while offering to environmentally remove unsafe copies and replace with genuine units at cost if required.