

Class 2g(vii) ~ Handbills, leaflets and pamphlets

The **litter problem** created by this class needs to be addressed urgently. If the CBD of Pretoria can be taken as an example this is becoming quite a big problem. Flyers are handed out to pedestrians almost everywhere – of which most do not reach a litter bin. Flyers handed out at intersections and being placed underneath the windscreen wipers of parked cars contribute to the litter problem even further. At intersections pamphlets handed out to motorists create a **traffic safety problem** and may even aggravate the **crime problem**. Persons handing out flyers at intersections may themselves be criminally intended or they may distract the attention of the motorist from ‘real’ criminals using smash and grab techniques.

The only way to solve these problems is to limit pamphlets to post boxes. However, junk mail creates its own problems. Apart from congesting post boxes, ‘strangers’ moving through a neighbourhood and placing pamphlets and flyers into street boxes contribute to a **sense of insecurity** and it may not be too farfetched to argue that such strangers may actually make a personal contribution to **crime**.

With these problems in mind municipalities may therefore consider to ban the distribution of flyers and pamphlets altogether or neighbourhood associations may decide not to allow the placing of pamphlets in street boxes.



This sign indicates that no pamphlet distributors are allowed in this residential area without written permission due to security reasons.

Compiled by Frans Jordaan