



Update of US Candles' Labeling Requirement ASTM F2058

From the study of US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 85% of candle-related fires were caused by burning candles too close to combustible items, candles were burnt unattended, and children playing with candles. The standards for candles were thus developed due to the concerns of those candle-related residential fires.

In March of 2007, a draft standard in updating the labeling requirements ASTM F2058 Standard Specification for Candle Fire Safety Labeling was launched. Here below is the summary of the proposed changes and a brief explanation of these changes.

A – Font size

Changes:

- * The minimum font size is significantly increased within the size limitations of most candle labels.

Reasons:

- * The current limits allow the font size to be too small to read
- * Not only increasing the readability, but also improve consumer attention to the warning
- * Consistent with safety labeling regulations for most countries and product categories

B- Abbreviated Warnings for Small Candles

Changes:

- * For small candles, allowed to have only the safety alert symbol and the words "Burn within Sight" or its equivalent.

Reasons:

- * The available space for the ASTM warning is severely limited
- * Free up valuable space to increase the font size of the warning and include additional safe use instructions

C- Pictograms¹

Changes: Introduces the optional use of graphic symbols for the below warnings:

- * Burn within sight.
- * Keep away from things that catch fire.
- * Keep away from children.

Reasons:

- * Concerns that English is a second language for some people.
- * Addresses the label space constraints due to the increased demand on multi-lingual labeling.
- * Permissible by law.

D- Equivalent Wording

Changes:

- * Permit the fire safety warning statements to be equivalent in meaning but different in wording.

Reasons:

- * Slightly different in verbiage can serve the same purpose.

The introduction of graphic symbols is very much in line with the proposed EU requirements on candles warning labels where the warnings are accompanied with pictograms. Details are in draft status and can be found in prEN 15494 standard (you can also read our safeGuards 025/06 http://newsletter.sgs.com/eNewsletterPro/uploadedimages/000006/safeguards_02506_candles.pdf)

¹ ASTM F2058 is in draft. The symbols may be subject to changes. An updated SafeGuards including the pictograms will be published as soon as the standard has been confirmed

For enquiries:

Global Competences Support Centre, gcsc@sgs.com

Nicole Li

☎ + 852 2774 7446 or ✉ : Nicole.Li@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 ✉ mktg.hk@sgs.com

Australasia – Perth Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 ✉ au.cts@sgs.com

Europe – London, UK Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 ✉ gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East – Turkey, Tel: +90 212 225 0024 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 ✉ sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas – USA, Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 ✉ Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com

Web: www.sgs.com Global Competences Support Centre: ✉ gcsc@sgs.com

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