

## EU child resistant lighter laws now in force

On 11 May 2006, the Commission adopted a Decision (2006/502/EC) requiring Member States to ensure that, from 1 March 2007, cigarette lighters are child-resistant when placing on the EU market (see our SafeGuards 030/06 dated June 2006: [http://newsletter.sgs.com/eNewsletterPro/uploadedimages/000006/safeguards\\_03006\\_child\\_resistant\\_lighters\\_update.pdf](http://newsletter.sgs.com/eNewsletterPro/uploadedimages/000006/safeguards_03006_child_resistant_lighters_update.pdf) ). The Decision also prohibits



the placing on the market of lighters which resemble objects that are particularly attractive to children; so called 'novelty lighters'. Certain lighters such as luxury lighters are excluded from the scope of the Decision based on a number of technical criteria, but must always comply to the general safety requirements for these products.

As of the 11 March 2007:

### The importation of novelty lighters is prohibited:

The definition of a novelty lighter is a lighter that: (For full definition see EN 13869: 2002).

- Is commonly used by consumers to light cigarettes, cigars and pipes; and that
- Resemble by any means another object commonly recognised as appealing to, or intended for use, by children younger than 51 months; or
- Has entertaining audio effects, or
- Has animated effects.

### Cigarette lighters placed on the EU market must be child resistant

With the exception of lighters which are sold with a 2 year written guarantee, are refillable and can be repaired by a European based after sales service.

Lighters that are not exempt from this decision must meet the requirements of EN 13869: 2002 (Child resistance for lighters – Safety requirements and test methods) or in accordance with the testing requirements of the relevant rules of non-EU countries where child resistant requirements equivalent to those established by this decision are in force.

The requirements of Child resistant lighters are:

- ◆ Lighters shall comply with the requirements of EN ISO 9994
- ◆ No Lighter shall be a novelty lighter
- ◆ Lighters shall be resistant to successful operation by at least 855 of the child test panel when tested in accordance to clause 5

- ◆ The mechanism or system of a lighter that makes the product resist successful operation by children shall:
  - Reset itself automatically after each operation of the ignition mechanism of the lighter.
  - Not impair safe operation of the lighter when used in normal and convenient manner;
  - Be effective for the reasonable operating life of the lighter and;
  - Not be easily overridden or deactivated.



Please note that a child resistant lighter is **not** a child proof lighter. A child resistant lighter is a lighter that at least 85% of children under 51 months of age cannot operate; meaning that up to 15% of these children may still be able to operate such a lighter.

## All lighters must be safe

This requirement has been the case since 1992. Lighters that comply with all the requirements of EN ISO 9994 are presumed safe.

Commission Decision 2007/231/EC of the 12 April 2007 amend Decision 2006/502 EC, stating:

- ◆ In article 2, the following paragraphs are added:
- ◆ Member states shall ensure that only lighters which are child resistant are supplied to consumers as of 11 March 2008.
- ◆ Member states shall prohibit the supply of novelty lighters to consumers as of 11 March 2008
- ◆ This decision shall apply until 11 March 2008. It is expected that further decisions will be made in the future.

*Source: Europa consumer affairs*

***SGS will keep you informed of any development in this area.***

***Should you have any enquiry in committing with the above requirement, please feel free to contact us.***

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