

Introduction Of Child Resistant Mechanism In Cigarette Lighters In EU

An estimated 34 to 40 people (mostly children) die annually in the EU, caused by children playing with unsafe lighters. The European Commission has announced a Commission Decision requiring all lighters placed on the EU market to be child-resistant. A US study in 2002 showed a drastic decrease of 60% in fires (including death, injuries and property damage) started by children after a law on child resistant lighters was passed in the US.

The expected impact on lighter producers would be minimal as major lighter producers have been exporting child resistant lighters to the US and other countries which already have such legislation in place. Producers are believed to have the skills and technology to make lighters child resistant and thus the estimated additional cost for producing the child resistant mechanism would be between 1 to 5 Euro cents.

The draft Decision has laid down the type of lighters required to be child resistant in the future and will exclude any monetary threshold such as the existing EUR 2 limit. At the same time the draft Decision has also proposed all 25 Member States to prohibit "novelty" lighters.

The child resistant mechanism shall prevent the operation of the lighter itself by children under 51 months. The lighter's ability to prevent children operating the lighter shall conform to EN 13869:2002 or other relevant requirement in non-EU countries.

As soon as the legislation is in place at the EU Level, the Member States will have 4 months to transpose the requirements into National Law and a grace period of 6 months for the industry to make the necessary changes to make the lighter child resistant.

A surveillance project has been proposed to run parallel with the introduction of the new legislation in the 25 EU member states to ensure the adequate controls of lighters.



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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