

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDGOODS

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## EU EXTENDS BAN ON NOVELTY AND NON-CHILD-RESISTANT LIGHTERS FOR 1 MORE YEAR

Commission Decision [2006/502/EC](#) has been in force since May 11<sup>th</sup> of 2006. The decision requires EU Member States to take measures to ensure that only lighters which are child-resistant are placed on the market and to prohibit the placing on the market of novelty lighters. Now [this ban](#) has been extended for the 6<sup>th</sup> time and is valid for another year until May 11<sup>th</sup> of 2013.

The aim of the requirements are to reduce the amount of deaths and injuries across the EU each year, that result from domestic fires started by young children playing with lighters. Manufacturers and importers of lighters are required to keep and to show on request to EU authorities a report of a child-resistance test. In addition producers are required, to continuously monitor the conformity of their lighters. Distributors (including retailers) are required to keep and to show on request documentation identifying the party from whom they obtained the lighters supplied to them (see [2006/502/EC](#)<sup>1</sup> for more details). There are two guidelines providing examples of novelty lighters and non-novelty lighters published by the European Commission available for downloading.<sup>1/2</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> [Joint Market Surveillance Action on Child-Resistant Lighters and Novelty Lighters - Inventory of novelty lighters](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Joint Market Surveillance Action on Child-Resistant Lighters and Novelty Lighters - Inventory of lighter designs that are considered not to be novelty lighters](#)

**Novelty Lighter Definition according to EN 13869:2002: - Defined as "... flame-producing product...that resembles by any means to another object commonly recognized as appealing to or intended for use by children".**

Common examples of novelty lighters are lighters with the outlook of toys such as soccer balls, watches, telephones, animals, light or sound emitting lighters just to name a few.

**Only lighters that fulfill the following requirements are accepted on the EU market.**

- EN ISO 9994 – Lighters – Safety specification
- EN 13869 – Lighters – Child-resistance for lighters – Safety requirements and test methods

Remark: This ban applies to disposable and inexpensive lighters. but excludes those refillable lighters designed to last for at least five years, and

- which benefit from a written guarantee of at least two years;
- which can be repaired and safely refilled, and which include a repairable ignition mechanism; and
- which contain parts that, if likely to wear out, can be replaced or repaired



**SOLUTION**

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