

## Joint Action Opinion on King Size Lighters (XXL Lighters)

The Joint Action on Lighters has seen a couple of cases where very large lighters have been placed on the market by economic operators. The participating market surveillance authorities have discussed how to treat such lighters, and have settled on the following opinion.

The participants in the Joint Action on Lighters (PROSAFE and the market surveillance authorities from 11 Member States including Iceland and Norway) have found a number of lighter models of extraordinary proportions on the European market. These lighters are often sold as "XXL lighters", "Giant lighters", "King size lighters", "Jumbo lighters" or have similar names. They are shaped like ordinary cigarette lighters, but their dimensions are considerably larger.



The participants in the Joint Action have discussed these lighters and have agreed on the following:

- The participating Member State authorities consider the intended use of such lighters is for the ignition of cigarettes. They are therefore considered as cigarette lighters falling under the provisions of Commission Decision 2006/502/EC, last amended by Commission Decision 2011/176/EU. (OJ L 76, 22.3.2011, p. 99.)
-

- The lighters must be safe. They can be presumed safe if they meet the requirements contained in EN ISO 9994.
- The lighters must be child-resistant. They can be presumed child-resistant if they meet the requirements contained in EN 13869.
- In general, it is not possible to declare such XXL lighters as child-resistant by cross-referencing it with a child-resistant lighter of normal size. Differences in size will almost certainly affect the child-resistance properties, and information from the market suggests that it is easier for children to ignite XXL lighters than normal size lighters. Therefore, the participating authorities have agreed that, for the moment, the best approach is to request that the manufacturers and importers produce the full technical documentation for child-resistance when the authorities carry out their checks on these products.
- When transported, such lighters must meet all relevant requirements for the transport of dangerous goods, in particular the ADR convention (the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road), chapter 3.3, special provision 201. This requirement limits the maximum permissible amount of fuel in a lighter to 10 grams.
- The participants in the Joint Action stress that such lighters cannot be considered to be utility lighters even though they measure longer than 100 mm because of their intended use. Cigarette lighters and utility lighters are distinguished solely based on their intended use and not their size:
  - The intended use of a cigarette lighter is to ignite cigarettes, pipes, etc.
  - The intended use of a utility lighters is to ignite barbecue grills, candle lights, fireplaces, etc.

The participants in the Joint Action are concerned about XXL-lighters because of the high content of fuel. It seems relevant to consider laying down requirements (e.g. in the standards) limiting the maximum amount of fuel in lighters.

### **Background**

The Joint Action is coordinated by PROSAFE, “The Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe”, a non-profit organisation that brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe and across the world. The Joint Action receives co-financing from the European Commission. Visit [www.prosafe.org](http://www.prosafe.org) to learn more.

### **Disclaimer**

The sole responsibility for the messages conveyed above lies with the authors. The European Commission is not responsible for this information or for any use that may be made of the information.