

To whom it may concern

Testing of lighters make Europe safer – please help

Cigarette lighters are products that must be handled with care. In the wrong hands, they can become dangerous and are the cause of numerous fires, injuries and even fatalities in Europe every year. Many incidents occur due to children playing with lighters. Europe has therefore recently decided to ban those lighters that look attractive to children (so-called novelty lighters) and lighters that are not child-resistant.

Child-resistant lighters can not normally be ignited by small children. The test procedure involves 100 children under the age of 4½ years who play with safe lighters ("surrogate lighters"). Using these adapted lighters is a requirement in the test method to ensure that the testing is safe for the children. The children's play lasts for 10 minutes and is monitored by an adult supervisor from the laboratory. The lighters that are used for this test have been modified in such a way so that they produce a sound or a light when they are "ignited". The modified lighters can not produce flames because they do not contain gas.

Stichting PROSAFE has decided to issue this information to stress the importance of this "child panel test" in the safety of lighters. Manufacturers and importers of lighters are required to test their lighter models to ensure that their lighters are safe for the consumer and in turn, the European authorities test lighters to check that the manufacturers and importers have complied with the rules and equipped the product sufficiently. All these checks and procedures are followed for the benefit of the safety of European consumers. It is therefore important to support this work and to allow children to participate in the laboratory tests.

Thank you for your help.

With kind regards,

Dirk Meijer Chairman of Stichting PROSAFE

Torben Rahbek – Innovation, Analysis and Consulting – www.torbenrahbek.dk



Stichting PROSAFE is an association of market surveillance authorities in Europe that checks the safety of cigarette lighters on the entire European market to ensure that dangerous models are removed from circulation. This takes place in a project that involves the majority of the European Member States. If you want to find out more about this organisation and cigarette lighters, please access the following website links:

Website of the EMARS project: www.emars.eu Website of PROSAFE: www.prosafe.org

Information on lighters on the European Commission's website:

ec.europa.eu/consumers/safety/prod_legis/prod_legislation_lighters_en.htm

The legal act that bans novelty lighters and lighters that are not child-resistant:

eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_198/l_19820060720en00410045.pdf