



September 14th, 2006

Lighter Safety: Implementation by the Member States of the European Commission Decision of 11 May 2006

At the time when each of the 25 Member States is to publish the European Decision regarding lighter safety, Société BIC wishes to add the following comments:

Child resistant lighters

⇒ A child-resistant lighter is a lighter that cannot be operated by at least 85% of children younger than 51 months.

⇒ A child-resistant lighter is in fact a lighter which has been purposely modified in order to make it more difficult to operate. In the case of BIC[®] lighters, the child-resistant mechanism is either a guard placed around the sparking wheel or a 2-movement mechanism made of a latch that has to be unlocked before the pusher (allowing ignition) can be activated.

⇒ The European Decision provides that starting 11 March 2007, it will be forbidden to import or to produce non child-resistant lighters intended for sale in the EU market.

The inventory of non child-resistant lighters already placed in the market as of 11 March 2007 can be sold until 11 March 2008, date from which European consumers must be able to buy only child-resistant lighters.

For the geographical areas where such a rule is in place, BIC has been producing such child-resistant lighters for 15 years.

BIC will be ready to place in the market child-resistant lighters respecting the deadlines provided by the European Decision.

BIC, which is in favor of consumer safety, supports this new Decision and collaborates with the European Commission in order to have it respected by all the stakeholders.

This European Decision does not apply to luxury and semi-luxury lighters which in particular are sold with a written guarantee and can be repaired by an after-sales service. In practice, these lighters are usually offered to consumers at a selling price above 8 Euro.

Ban on novelty lighters

The European Decision adds that novelty lighters will be forbidden following the same deadlines.

The European Decision indicates that novelty lighters are in particular those with a shape that resembles *“cartoon characters, toys, guns, watches, telephones, musical instruments, vehicles, human body or parts of the human body, animals, food or beverages, or*

that play musical notes, or have flashing lights or moving objects or other entertaining features. This excludes lighters that are printed or decorated with logos, labels, decals, artwork or heat shrinkable sleeves.”

ISO 9994 safety standard

As of today, this European Decision makes mandatory the lighter safety standard ISO 9994 that exists since 1989 and that was up until now a voluntary standard too often not respected.

This ISO 9994 standard defines the safety specifications of a lighter such as the maximum flame height, the resistance to elevated temperature, the resistance to dropping, the resistance to continuous burning, the flame extinction ...

All BIC® lighters meet or exceed ISO 9994 safety specifications.

About BIC

BIC is a world leader in stationery, lighters and shavers. For more than 50 years, BIC has honored the tradition of providing high-quality, affordable products to consumers everywhere. Through this unwavering dedication, BIC has become one of the most recognized brands in the world. BIC products are sold in more than 160 countries around the world. In 2005, BIC recorded net sales of 1,381 million euro under IFRS. The Company is listed in the Eurolist Euronext Paris, the SBF120 and CAC Mid 100 indexes. BIC is also part of the FTSE4 Good Europe Index of Ethical Companies and of the ASPI Eurozone.

For more information, please consult the corporate web site: www.bicworld.com

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