

Chief Fire Officers (Scotland)

28 July 2011

Dear Chief Officer

DEAR CHIEF OFFICER (SCOTLAND) LETTER 10/2011

REDUCED IGNITION PROPENSITY (RIP) CIGARETTES - UPDATE

Introduction

1. [Dear Chief Officer \(Scotland\) Letter 15/2010 - Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes Update](#), provided an update on the new Standard and Test Method for RIP cigarettes. I am now in a position to provide you with a further update on the good progress which has been made on this issue.

Background

2. CEN (the EU standards making body) published the Safety Standard and Test Method on 17 November 2010, with **Official Journal of the European Union** (OJEU) Referencing planned for 12 months from that date. This period is to allow manufacturers sufficient time to change the necessary manufacturing process to meet the new standard. The EU has said that the Standard will be referred to the OJEU on 17 November 2011. In parallel, the British Standards Institution (BSI) published the equivalent BS EN 16156 (Cigarettes Assessment of the ignition propensity) on 31 December 2010.

Current Update

3. Following the publication of both the CEN and BSI standard, policy colleagues in the UK Government and Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser in England (CFRA) have continued dialogue with the main UK tobacco manufacturers to ensure they have in hand plans to comply with the Standard. These meetings have been very positive and the manufacturers are on track to deliver compliance for all cigarette products at point of manufacture in advance of the publication of the Reference Standard on 17 November 2011.

4. The tobacco industry have advised that although every effort would be made to ensure there is 'sell through' of product lines before the Reference Standard takes effect, it may not be possible to guarantee all retailers stock would be compliant by the Reference date. The industry is working with their sales teams to inform retailers of the incoming standard, and the importance of ensuring that as much non-compliant stock is sold through by 17 November 2011.
5. The industry expects to have achieved a complete sell through of non-compliant products by the end of summer 2012.
6. My colleagues in CFRA are working closely with the General Product Safety and Better Regulation teams at the department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to understand how the new Reference Standard will be implemented. BIS's standard practice is to communicate the existence of new standards through the Trading Standards Interlink to Local Authority Trading Standards departments on the date they take effect. This will confirm the UK Government's expectation that all cigarettes sold in the UK and EU will comply with the new safety standard.
7. As is normal with Reference Standards, this will be a light touch. BIS will not instruct nor expect Trading Standards to enforce the standard. It will be a matter for local Trading Standards to determine their role in any monitoring and enforcement activity.

Conclusion

8. I would ask that you note the further good progress on this important issue and I will keep you informed of any future developments.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN TORRIE

Head of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit