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Chief Officers

21 December 2010

Dear Chief Officer

**DEAR CHIEF OFFICER (SCOTLAND) LETTER 15/2010**

**REDUCED IGNITION PROPENSITY (RIP) CIGARETTES - UPDATE**

As you will be aware, there is work ongoing around a new Standard and Test Method for RIP cigarettes. A good deal of progress has been made on a number of areas.

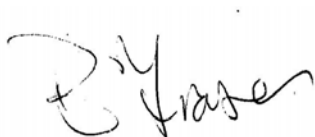
I have attached the letter from Sir Ken Knight, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, to the English Chief Fire Officers and a copy of the press release from CEN (the EU standards making body) announcing the publication of the standard for RIP cigarettes for your information.

The main areas of progress are:

- CEN published the Safer Standard and Test Method on 17 November 2010.
- OJEU Referencing is planned for 12 months from 17 November 2010 (this will allow manufacturers to change their processing to meet the required standard). Therefore the earliest the standard is likely to be referenced in the OJEU is around 17 November 2011.
- The British Standards Institution (BSI), which is the UK's national standards body, is also working to transfer the CEN standard into a national BSI standard with an equivalent British Standard for RIP cigarettes expected to be published by the end of December 2010.
- UK policy and CFRA colleagues have had very positive meetings with tobacco manufacturing stakeholders to discuss their introduction of compliant products into the UK market with effect from the publication of the Reference Standard in the OJEU.
- Scottish Government colleagues are keeping internal and external stakeholders informed of developments, including CFOA(S), through the Scotland Together Next Steps Group.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact my office.

Yours faithfully



**BRIAN FRASER**

**Head of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit**

Chief Fire Officers

London Fire Commissioner

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26 November 2010

*Dear Colleague,*

**FIRE SAFER CIGARETTES - UPDATE**

Following my letter of 9 August about fire safer cigarettes, I am pleased to report that good progress has been made on a number of fronts.

As you may be aware, CEN (the EU standards making body) published the Safety Standard and Test Method on 17 November 2010, with OJEU Referencing planned for 12-months from that date. This period is to allow manufactures to change the necessary manufacturing process to meet the new standard. Therefore, the earliest and likely date for the Standard to be referenced in the OJEU is on or around 17 November 2011. This timetable is subject to confirmation at EU political level, but we have no reason to believe it will not receive the necessary agreement. I attach for information a copy of the CEN press release announcing the publication of the standard for fire safer cigarettes.

In parallel with the CEN process, BSI has been working to transfer the CEN standard into a national BSI standard. The BSI work is also progressing well, and they expect to publish an equivalent British Standard for fire safer cigarettes by the end of December 2010. We have worked closely with policy colleagues to ensure this work has progressed as swiftly as possible.

In advance of the last GPSD meeting on 14 October, my policy colleagues (Louise Upton and Mike Larking) and I met with Philip Morris Ltd and the Tobacco Manufacturers Association (BAT, JTI, and Imperial), to update them on the progress and timeframe for the implementation of an EU safety standard and test method for fire safer cigarettes; and, to discuss the industry's plans to introduce compliant products into the UK market with effect from the publication of the Reference Standard in the OJEU.

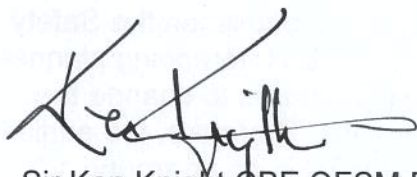
The outcome of this constructive dialogue was very positive: it is clear that the industry is able and willing to deliver compliant products to the market, providing they have sufficient time to make the necessary transitional arrangements. The advance notice afforded by CEN's publication of the proposed EU standard will allow the

manufacturers to ensure compliance with the Reference Standard at point of manufacture.

We believe that in terms of implementation, there should be no reason why the UK manufacturers could not introduce compliant products into the market in advance of the Standard being referenced. This would help ensure the bulk of supplies in shops will be compliant to meet the publication of the Standard in November 2011. The industry advised us 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 date of the Reference Standard. As a result, we understand the industry is now considering the development of compliance implementation action plans.

I am delighted that we have reached such a positive position not least due to the professional and diligent way that policy colleagues in FRD have pursued the goal of the reduction of accidental fire deaths. They continue to be in regular contact with the EU on this issue and I will continue to keep you informed of the progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Knight', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL  
Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser



## PRESS RELEASE

- for immediate release -

### New Standards for self-extinguishing cigarettes

**Brussels (18 November 2010)** – Fire-safety requirements for Reduced Ignition Propensity (RIP) cigarettes, i.e. cigarettes that self-extinguish when not actively smoked, are now covered by a new European Standard, EN 16156 'Cigarettes – Assessment of the ignition propensity'. This European Standard complements a first standard published by CEN and ISO in September this year, ISO 12863 'Standard test method for assessing the ignition propensity for cigarettes'. Both standards were developed to respond to the European Commission standardization mandate, M/425, relative to the fire-safety requirements for cigarettes.

The aim of developing standards for self-extinguished cigarettes was to find a technical solution to prevent cigarettes from burning through their whole length when not actively smoked as they remain a source of heat and therefore still represent a fire hazard. Indeed, cigarettes could ignite materials such as furniture or textiles.

M/425 provided the mandate to develop standards that take into consideration two different aspects: the fire safety requirement (dealt by EN 16156), and to define a suitable test method to determine whether the requirement is fulfilled by the specimens tested (handled by ISO 12863).

These two new standards will considerably improve the success in reducing fire hazards and contribute once again to a safer world.

-END-

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#### ABOUT CEN

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is a business catalyst in Europe, removing trade barriers for European stakeholders such as industry, public administration, service providers, consumers and other stakeholders. Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens, and the environment. Through its services CEN provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other specifications.

CEN's 31 National Members work together to develop voluntary European Standards (ENs) in various sectors to build a European Internal Market for goods and services and to position Europe in the global economy. By supporting research, and helping disseminate innovation, standards are a powerful tool for economic growth. More than 60.000 technical experts as well as business federations, consumer and other societal interest organizations are involved in the CEN network that reaches over 480 million people.

For further information, please visit: [www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu)