

Joint Market Surveillance Action on Child-Resistant Lighters and Novelty Lighters (Grant Agreement no. 17.020200 / 07 / 472817)

Information from the Participants in the Joint Action to the Stakeholders on the First Test Results

Results from the first laboratory tests in the joint action for lighters are now available. Nine lighter models have been tested and four models failed to meet the European safety requirements. The most common shortcomings are lighters that flare, lighters producing too high flames or lighters that break or leak when dropped or exposed to high temperatures.

The lighters have been sampled among major distributors in the markets that represent major European importers and manufacturers. The sampled lighter models were selected because the authority in case suspected the model for having dangerous shortcomings.

The tests were carried out on an accredited laboratory in accordance with the safety standard EN ISO 9994 on 20 – 50 samples per model. The standard requires that all samples for a given model meet all requirements to pass the test.

These first nine tests also serve as a pilot to get test and enforcement procedures in place. The Member States will continue their market surveillance activities until summer 2009 to increase the compliance level on the market. The activities include testing of more than 150 lighter models

The Joint Action on Cigarette Lighters

Member States and PROSAFE are running a joint action on cigarette lighters to follow-up the Commission decision from 2006 on cigarette lighters and novelty lighters. The decision says that all lighters offered to consumers must be child-resistant from 11 March 2008 and it bans novelty lighters from the same date.

More information on the joint action can be obtained from the website, www.emars.eu. You may also contact the project manager Gunnar Wold (gunnar.wold@dsb.no) or the project coordinator Torben Rahbek (tr@torbenrahbek.dk).
