



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority  
Community Safety Committee

# **FIRE SAFER CIGARETTES; REDUCED IGNITION PROPENSITY (RIP) CIGARETTES**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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**Agenda Item No:**

**Date:** 21 January 2011

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Members on the progress of Reduced Propensity Ignition (RIP) fire safer cigarettes new standards.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Authority, through the Community Safety Committee on 18 January 2008, have been made aware of the advancements in attempts to manufacture cigarettes which self extinguish if dropped or are left unattended, and the research which suggests that the introduction of these Reduced Ignition Propensity (RIP) cigarettes could significantly reduce the number of accidental fires.
- 1.2 Ordinary cigarettes will usually burn themselves down to the filter, whether they are being smoked or not. They can burn for several minutes starting potentially devastating fires. These are particularly prevalent in the home. Smoking materials are responsible for one third of fire deaths and most non-fatal injuries in the UK and this is thought to be typical of fires in most countries. Victims of the fires are often from lower income households and include children, the elderly and people with an alcohol problem. Smokers, their families, neighbours and fire-fighters can all be affected.
- 1.3 The introduction of fire safe cigarettes has been championed in Europe by the UK Government and by Fire and Rescue Services.

## **REPORT**

- 2.1 Recent information has been received from the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor and this is conveyed within this report.
- 2.2 CEN (the EU standards making body) published the Safety Standard and Test Method on 17 November 2010, with Official Journal of the European Union Referencing planned for 12 months from that date.
- 2.3 Fire safety requirements for RIP cigarettes 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'.
- 2.4 In parallel with the CEN process, BSI has been working with the CEN standard to form a national BSI standard. The BSI work is progressing well and it is expected that they will publish an equivalent British Standard for fire safer cigarettes by January 2011.
- 2.5 The advanced notice afforded by CEN's publication of the proposed standard will allow manufacturers to ensure compliance with the Reference Standard at point of manufacture.
- 2.6 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 have advised CLG that although every effort would be made to ensure there is a '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 the industry is now considering the development of compliance action plans.

- 2.7 What must be borne in mind is that not all cigarettes smoked in the UK are purchased in Europe, however these two new standards are a positive move forward in terms of legislation and will considerably improve the success in reducing fire hazards.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An equality impact assessment is not applicable for this report.

### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Fire Authority are committed to reducing deaths and injuries within the community. The advances in the areas related to this report complement this commitment and failure to continue to support this could result in an opportunity missed to reduce deaths and injuries from fire within our communities.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the report and continue to support the introduction of safer cigarettes in the UK.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**