



CIGARETTE LIGHTERS: NEW LAWS

Since 11th March 2008:

- Novelty lighters have been completely banned
- All other lighters must be safe and child resistant

What is a Novelty Lighter?

A novelty lighter is one that a small child might want to play with. This is because of:

- Its shape – for example it looks like a toy, such as an animal, a mobile phone, a car, gun, a cartoon character or food
- It has flashing lights
- It has moving objects or other entertaining features

It is now illegal to supply any novelty lighter. The ban does not include ordinary lighters with printed logos or other artwork.

Here are some examples of novelty lighters that are now illegal to sell.



How can I tell if a lighter is safe?

Here are some simple checks you can do:

The lighter should have a **WARNING** label with the words “**KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN**” and “**Ignite lighter away from face and clothing**”

- The lighter should be marked with a batch code and name or symbol of the manufacturer.
- Check that the lighter has a child resistance mechanism to make it difficult for a small child to operate it. This might be the force required to operate the lighter or a complex operation.
- Only buy from a supplier who gives you a written invoice. You must keep the invoice as Trading Standards may need to see it.

Are there any standards for safe lighter design?

All lighters sold from 11th March 2008:

- Must comply with BS EN ISO 9994 – This is the international lighter safety standard.
- Must comply with BS EN 13869 – This is the European standard for child resistant lighters.

What should I do with non compliant stock?

You should take novelty all lighters off sale straight away. Other lighters, without safety mechanisms, should also be removed from sale. Your wholesaler may take them back.

What happens if I fail to comply with the above requirements?

Trading Standards will be enforcing the new law. If you don't comply you could have your stock seized or suspended. You could be taken to court and fined up to £5000.

How can I get further advice?

If you require further information, clarification or advice on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Trading Standards Service at:

222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR

Tel: (020) 7527 3198

Email: trading.standards@islington.gov.uk

In offering the above advice, this Authority wishes to make it clear that only the Courts can interpret the Law.