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**Letter to Manufacturers and Importers and  
Interested Parties of  
Barbecue/Utility Lighters**

1998-09-18

Increased use and accessibility to barbecue/utility lighters by children has resulted in an increasing number of home fires since 1995. The Product Safety Bureau asks importers and other members of the trade to consider only child-resistant models as suitable for import and sale in Canada.

Child-resistant requirements for lighters of tobacco products became law on June 14, 1995 after numerous incidents of fires caused by children playing with lighters. These requirements are set out in the *Hazardous Products (Lighters) Regulations*. Although similar in design, barbecue lighters, also known as multipurpose or utility lighters, are not subject to child-resistant requirements.

There have been incidents in Canada of child-play fires attributed to utility lighters which have resulted in injuries and property damage. Fortunately, there have been no reported deaths. Some manufacturers have already incorporated child-resistant features into their utility lighters. Although the Product Safety Bureau does not have the statutory authority at this time to require child resistant features be incorporated into utility lighters, we urge the trade to do so voluntarily .

For additional information or comments regarding this issue, please contact a Product Safety Officer at the nearest Health Canada office:

Burnaby, BC (604) 666-5003	Hamilton, ON (905) 572-2845
Edmonton, AB (403) 495-2626	Longueuil, QC (450) 646-1353 (514) 283-5488
Calgary, AB (403) 292-4677	Quebec, QC (418) 648-4327
Saskatoon, Sask (306) 975-4028	Moncton, NB (506) 851-6638
Winnipeg, MB (204) 983-2846	Dartmouth, NS (902) 426-8300
Toronto, ON (416) 973-4705	St. John's, NF (709) 772-4050

September 18, 1998