**Cigarette Ignition Propensity Regulations**

*What is ignition propensity?*

*Ignition propensity is the ability of a heat source to ignite a substrate. Ignition propensity depends on a number of factors which include the characteristics of the substrate, the heat source, and the zone of contact between the heat source and the substrate.*

*Why regulate cigarette ignition propensity?*

Health Canada is responsible for helping the people of Canada maintain and improve their health, and we have taken a number of steps in the past to prevent fires started by burning cigarettes. Some of these initiatives have been:

- educating the public about the dangers of smokers’ materials
- establishing fire safety standards for consumer products such as mattresses and bedding
- regulating ignition sources such as matches and lighters
- working with the Canadian Council of Furniture Manufacturers to implement voluntary flammability standards for upholstered furniture

Despite these efforts, fires started by smokers’ materials continue to exact a significant toll on Canadian society — approximately 70 deaths and 300 injuries every year according to a study done by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

*What do the Regulations require?*

The Regulations state that all cigarettes manufactured in or imported into Canada must burn their full length no more than 25% of the time when tested using ASTM International method *E2187-04: Standard Test Method for Measuring the Ignition Strength of Cigarettes.*

*When does the Ignition Propensity Standard come into effect?*

On October 1, 2005.

*Where can I get a copy of the Standard Test Method?*

You can obtain a copy of ASTM’s *E2187-04: Standard Test Method for Measuring the Ignition Strength of Cigarettes* (the filter paper method) by contacting:

ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken, PA
19428-2959 USA
Phone: (610) 832-9585
Fax: (610) 832-9555
Web site: www.astm.org

*Do the Regulations apply to cigarettes manufactured in Canada for export?*

Yes, cigarettes manufactured for export must also comply with the Regulations.

*Do the Regulations apply to other tobacco products?*

No, the Regulations only apply to manufactured cigarettes. They do not apply to hand-rolled tobacco, tobacco sticks, cigars, bidis or kreteks.

**Questions? Contact us!**

For more information on the requirements of the *Cigarette Ignition Propensity Regulations*, contact us through one of our regional Tobacco Control Programme Offices:

- British Columbia/Yukon Region (Burnaby): (604) 666-2938
- Alberta/Northwest Territories Region (Edmonton): (780) 495-7356
- Saskatchewan/Manitoba Region (Regina): (306) 780-3850
- Ontario/Nunavut Region (Toronto): (416) 954-9825
- Québec Region (Longueuil): (450) 646-1353
- Atlantic Region (Halifax): (902) 426-4051