

# Sample Letter to the Consumer Product Safety Commission

Date

Office of the Chairman  
Nancy Nord  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Ms. Nord:

I am very concerned about the import and sale of novelty lighters that resemble toys. Under the present statute (16 C.F.R., Part 1210), novelty lighters are defined a “lighters that have features that make them attractive to children under five,” including “lighters with features entertaining to children, such as visual effects like flashing lights or sound effects like musical notes.”

By statute, novelty lighters are subject to the safety standard that requires that at least 85 percent of children in a test group must be unable to operate the lighter. That standard is commendable and has saved lives. However, children cannot discriminate a toy from a fire tool designed to look like a toy. There are lighters on the market today that resemble matchbox cars, animals and game pieces.

There are no valid reasons that lighters are manufactured to look like toys. The child-resistant cigarette lighter standard is proven to be effective. Surely it is time to take the next step and protect children from lighters that encourage their curiosity, inviting unintentional misuse and placing them and their families at risk.

As a professional in the fire service, I am asking you to help eliminate novelty lighters and the dangers they create.

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Organization