



Special Notice

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

JULY 1, 2008

Cigarettes Sold in Washington Required to be Reduced Ignition Propensity Certified

Effective August 1, 2009, 2SSB 5642 (Chapter 239, Laws of 2008) requires that only reduced ignition propensity cigarettes be sold in Washington State by retailers and wholesalers. A reduced ignition propensity cigarette is one that has been designed to be less likely than a conventional cigarette to ignite soft furnishings, couches, etc.

Steps cigarette retailers/wholesalers need to take

Retailers and wholesalers must sell their stock of cigarettes that are not reduced ignition propensity cigarettes by August 1, 2009. Cigarettes sold after August 1, 2009 must be certified by the Washington State Director of Fire Protection as reduced ignition propensity. Manufacturers must pay a fee of \$250 for each cigarette listed in a certification. Cigarettes that are certified must be marked to indicate compliance with the testing and performance standard requirements. In addition, certified cigarettes must be recertified every three years.

The law does not prohibit the manufacture or sale of cigarettes that do not meet the reduced ignition propensity requirement. However, these cigarettes must be stamped for sale in another state or packaged for sale outside the United States.

Penalty for not complying with requirements

Any manufacturer, wholesale dealer, agent, retailer, or other person who knowingly sells non-certified cigarettes faces fines from \$500 to \$25,000 and seizure of the cigarettes.

If a federal cigarette ignition propensity standard is adopted and becomes effective, the Washington State Director of Fire Protection will prepare and submit necessary legislation to repeal this chapter.

More information

If you need assistance or have questions, contact the Special Programs Division at (360) 570-3265.

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