



Special Notice

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

AUGUST 8, 2008

ORIGINALLY ISSUED JULY 1, 2008; REVISED AUGUST 8, 2008

Cigarettes Sold in Washington Required to be Certified as Reduced Ignition Propensity

Effective August 1, 2009, retailers and wholesalers may only sell reduced ignition propensity cigarettes in Washington State. 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. 2SSB 5642. (Chapter 239, Laws of 2008)

Sales of existing inventory

Retail and wholesale dealers may continue to sell from their existing inventory of not reduced ignition propensity cigarettes on or after the August 1, 2009 effective date, but only if the dealer can establish that:

- 1) state tax stamps were affixed to the cigarettes before August 1, 2009; and
- 2) the inventory was purchased before August 1, 2009, in a comparable quantity to the inventory purchased during the same period in 2008.

Steps cigarette retailers/wholesalers need to take

Retailers and wholesalers must ensure that their existing stock of not reduced ignition propensity cigarettes are affixed with state tax stamps prior to 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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