



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tom Corbett
Attorney General

December 15, 2008

RE: **Pennsylvania's Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act**

The Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act (Act 42 of 2008) was signed into law on July 4, 2008. According to the Act, beginning July 1, 2009, only self-extinguishing cigarettes that have been tested, certified and stamped may be sold in Pennsylvania. The Act provides testing standards for cigarette fire safety; requires manufacturers to submit certifications to the Department of Revenue stating that the cigarettes have been tested pursuant to the standards set forth in the act; requires special cigarette package markings; provides for the sale of existing inventory; establishes special funds for administration and fire safety and prevention programs; and imposes penalties and fines for those who violate the Act.

The Act will be effective January 1, 2009, after which time it will be illegal to stamp cigarettes which have not been certified through the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue as compliant with the Act. Accordingly, any cigarettes stamped after January 1, 2009 must be compliant with the Act or will be considered contraband cigarettes. Additionally, after July 1, 2009, it will be illegal for wholesale dealers or retail dealers to offer for sale, possess for sale or sell any cigarettes that are **not** compliant with the Act.

A violation of this law may result in civil penalties as well as immediate seizure and destruction of any non-compliant cigarettes.

There will be changes to the Pennsylvania Tobacco Product Directory which appears at www.attorneygeneral.gov as of January 2009. We also encourage you to discuss this law with your retail customers to ensure their understanding of law and to promote a smooth transition.

Please contact the Tobacco Enforcement Section of the Office of Attorney General with any questions at (717)783-1794 or email the website's "Contact Us" link under "Tobacco Related Topics."