



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Tom Corbett
Attorney General

December 15, 2008

Announcing the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act

Dear Cigarette Dealer:

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.

According to this Act, after January 1, 2009, it will be illegal for a cigarette stamping agent to affix a Pennsylvania tax stamp to any cigarettes which have not been certified through the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue as compliant with the Act.

The requirement that only cigarettes certified as compliant with this Act may be sold shall not prohibit wholesale dealers or retail dealers from selling their existing inventory of cigarettes on or after January 1, 2009, if the wholesale dealer or retail dealer can establish that the State tax stamps were affixed to the cigarettes prior to January 1, 2009, and if the wholesale dealer or retail dealer can establish that the inventory was purchased prior to January 1, 2009 in comparable quantity to the inventory purchased during the same period of the prior year.

However, a wholesale dealer or retail dealer may not sell or offer for sale a cigarette in Pennsylvania that does not comply with this Act after July 1, 2009.

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.

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."