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[Proposed Rules]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

16 CFR Part 1214

Cigarette Lighters; Extension of Time To Issue Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Extension of time to issue proposed rule.

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SUMMARY: On April 11, 2005, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) under the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) that began a rulemaking proceeding addressing a possible unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the mechanical malfunction of cigarette lighters. The CPSA provides that a proposed standard under that act must be issued within 12 months of publication of the ANPR, unless the 12-month period is extended by the Commission for good cause. In this notice, the Commission extends the period for issuing any proposed CPSA rule until December 31, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Mail requests for documents concerning this rulemaking should be e-mailed to the Office of the Secretary at [cpsc-os@cpsc.gov](mailto:cpsc-os@cpsc.gov). Requests may also be sent by facsimile to (301) 504-0127, by telephone at (301) 504-7923, or by mail to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rohit Khanna, Directorate for Engineering Sciences, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone 301-504-7546 or e-mail: [rkhanna@cpsc.gov](mailto:rkhanna@cpsc.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 9(c) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. 2058(c), the Commission must issue a proposed consumer product safety rule within 12 months of the publication of an ANPR, unless the Commission extends that period for good cause. Since the ANPR for cigarette lighters was published in the Federal Register on April 11, 2005, 70 FR 18339, the 12-month period for proposal of any CPSA rule in that proceeding expires on April 10, 2006.

After publication of the ANPR, the public was given until June 10, 2005, to file written comments with the CPSC. In addition to evaluating the comments, before determining whether to proceed with a rule for cigarette lighters, the Commission needs additional information about the number of lighters currently conforming to the lighter voluntary standard (ASTM F-400, Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Lighters). Since the publication of the ANPR, the staff has collected lighters from across the country in order to obtain a representative sample for conformance testing. In September 2005, the Commission issued a contract for the testing of a representative sample of lighters sold in the United States to the requirements of the voluntary standard. The period of performance for the contract is about eight months. The lighter testing is currently underway and when completed will be used by staff to determine the conformance of lighters currently sold in the U.S. market. Following completion of this work, the staff plans to send a briefing package to the Commission in August 2006. The Commission will then evaluate the need for continuing the rulemaking proceeding. If the Commission does decide to go forward with the rulemaking, a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) could be issued in late 2007. If an NPR is published, a final rule could be issued during Fiscal Year 2008. Accordingly, the Commission extends the date for publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking for cigarette lighters to December 31, 2007.

Dated: April 5, 2006.

Todd A. Stevenson,  
Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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