

Lighters with a children's safety certificate. Does not only sound good, but is even officially required!



Infants handling lighters may have life-threatening consequences. To prevent this, lighters require an operating mechanism, which is supposed to foreclose manipulation by infants. As a result in Europe only those lighters are allowed to be placed in the market, based on the decision of the European Commission 2012/53/EU regarding the marketing of child-resistant lighters which are in accordance with the standard EN13869. However, time and again the authorities discover cases of lighters which have been placed on the market holding functional failures, or lighters lacking valid certificates and therefore do not meet the requirements. This constitutes a breach of the lighter decree concerning the placing on the market of child-resistant lighters – these products must be withdrawn from the market. They are not allowed to be sold any longer.

Evidence about the correct functioning of child-resistant lighters is provided by a certification according to EN 13869 standard after successful testing. Only lighters that have been tested for child resistance and that have been certified by an accredited institute according to EN 45011 comply with the legal obligations. Anyone placing lighters on the market are responsible to ensure the conformity of their products with legal standards. Upon request evidence in the form of a certificate must be submitted to the authorities concerned – otherwise there is risk of penalties. Only a certificate (see drawing) proves compliance with the legal requirements and provides legal security.

Lighters, placed on the market must be child-resistant!



Only certified products are permitted in the market!

Until a few years ago about 1500–1900 injuries and 34–40 fatal accidents per year were caused by children who had played with lighters (without child safety device) and therefore generated fires in Europe. This shows, that infants handling lighters is dangerous and causes burns, death and damages in the millions. In order to counteract this problem responsibly the production, marketing and the usage of child-resistant lighters is a promising instrument to warrant consumer safety and to protect the health and life of infants.

Lighters without child safety device are dangerous!

Child-resistant lighters are equipped with different mechanisms that complicates or ideally prevents manipulation by infants. In many cases the technical solutions are based on an increased effort or several coordinated steps to trigger a flame. Ultimately it is impossible to prevent infants from handling child-resistant lighters if they find them accidentally. However, the resistancy features considerably complicate the operation and they are understood as the last barrier if all other efforts of adults have failed to prevent the child from access to the lighter.

Technical solutions as a precaution!



1. Bracket across the friction wheel
2. Two steps: press, then turn
3. Increased operating force complicates triggering the flame

Illustrations: Positive examples of child-resistant lighters by means of different mechanisms

With regard to all existing technical solutions which are supposed to prevent infants from operating lighters, their success and accordingly their effectiveness may be raised into question. Will the safety measures really prevent infants from operating lighters in a critical situation?

In order to find a positive answer to this question, child-resistant lighters must be checked for proper functioning safety features before they are allowed to be placed on the market. The applicable testing procedure is defined by European Standard EN 13869 or US 16 CFR § 1210 in the USA.

Safety tests for child-resistance in many countries!

The testing procedure in both cases is a group of 200 infants aged between 42–51 months, that will be given 10 minutes time at most, to try to ignite the lighter.

To meet the requirements of the standard, the following regulations of evaluation are effective:

Testing group	Accumulated number of children	Successful handling of the lighter		
		Success	To continue	Failure
1	100	0 – 10	11 – 18	19 or more
2	200	11 – 30	—	30 or more

Retailers, placing lighters on the market are obliged to prove the compliance of the lighters within the requirements of EN 13869, respectively US 16 CFR § 1210 with a valid certificate. Important: The institute issuing the certification for child-resistant lighters must be an accredited body according to EN 45011. This is required in order for the certification to be internationally valid for inspection by the relevant authorities.

Lighters must be child-resistant (tested and certified according to EN 13869) when placed on the market. Furthermore the marketing of novelty lighters is completely prohibited by European Commission Decision 2012/53/EU.

What is a lighter with entertainment value?

Lighters have an entertainment value when resembling an object which is appealing to children up to the age of 51 months and inspiring them to play with it. Likewise no holder or other accessory item of the lighter is allowed to have this characteristic.

What sort of lighters are permitted?

Lighters are only permitted to be placed on the market, if they are tested and certified with regard to child safety, according to EN 13869 by an accredited institute. Also, they must be marked with information as to the producer and date of production.

What sort of lighters are not permitted?

Lighters with an entertainment value or lighters without a certification of child safety according to EN 13869, are not permitted on the market. Infringements are considered as minor breaches of law, according to the device and product security law. If repeated, they are regarded as criminal acts.

For a certification of child-resistance the lighters must comply with the safety-related terms of EN ISO 9994 for lighter products. The warning and prohibitory signs below must be indicated to the user for their own security according to EN ISO 9994. For this reason the warning signs may be applied to the lighter, or as a separate information, or on the sales packaging.



Illustrations: Warning and prohibitory signs according to EN ISO 9994

In addition to the warning sign "Keep away from children" the certificate ensuring child-resistance should be in existence, when placed on the market. Only in this way will the terms be met. It is important that the warnings are applied clearly and visibly.

Only accredited certification bodies are permitted to certify!

Importing of novelty lighters is prohibited!

Products and accessories must not have an entertainment value!

Only tested and certified products are permitted on the market!

Marketing of uncertified products is prohibited!

Signs and symbols warn users!

Who is responsible?

Producers, representatives, importers and retailers bear responsibility for the placement of lighters on the market. Beyond that they are obliged to have evidence, such as test reports and certificates ready for immediate submission to the authorities in charge, if required. This documents are required to check the identity of the suppliers who delivered the lighters you offer.

All parties have the responsibility to meet the regulations!

What is the procedure of testing and certification?

Lighters are regarded as child-resistant when an examination according to European Standard EN 13869 has been completed successfully and a certificate for the product has been issued. This standard describes the testing procedure and schedules a test with 100–200 infants, aged 42–51 months, conducted by an accredited institute. If the test results are successful, it will be documented in a detailed test report. Then certification of the lighter will be given by the same institute and the marketing of the lighter can then be performed.

Examination is required for a certification according to EN 13869!

Who is authorized to execute testing and certification?

Testing and certification must be executed by an institution, which is accredited as a certification body for child-resistant lighters by a member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). **ivm** in the city of Braunschweig (www.ivm-childsafe.de) is accredited by the German Accreditation Authority (DAkkS) and is entitled to execute certifications in accordance with EN 13869. The accreditation is in compliance to the law concerning the German Accreditation Body (AkkStelleG), dated July 31.2008 (Federal Law Gazette, p. 2625) and the decree (EC) no. 765/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, dated July, 9.2008 regarding the regulations for accreditations and market surveillance in context of the marketing of products (Official Journal of the European Communities, L 218, dated July 9.2008 p.30).

Only accredited institutions are entitled to conduct examination and certification!

ivm was founded in 1975 as institute for Marketing Research in the city of Braunschweig. Today **ivm** is one of the few accredited institutions in Europe, where by high quality standards ensure that certified child safety devices of lighters or of other packaging with dangerous contents are accepted by industry, consumers and institutions. Commercial success of many years and faithful steady customers confirm us that we can satisfy the expectations and requirements of our customers and of the society.



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Accredited by DAkkS as certification body according to DIN EN 45011

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