**Australian Government**

**Department of Immigration and Border Protection**

**DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE**

**No. 2016/23**

**Introduction of domestic mandatory safety standard: self-balancing scooters (hoverboards)**

On 14 July 2016, the Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer (the Minister for Small Business), the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, introduced a mandatory safety standard under the Australian Consumer Law for self-balancing scooters (also known as hoverboards) supplied in Australia. The mandatory standard took effect on 17 July 2016. Self-balancing scooters that do not meet safety requirements are not permitted for sale in Australia. The safety standard will be in place for two years.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has no legislative powers to ensure that imported self-balancing scooters conform to electrical safety requirements. Self-balancing scooters are not a prohibited or restricted import. However, importers should be aware of the safety standard that applies to self-balancing scooters sold domestically in Australia.

# Background

Self-balancing scooters are electrical two-wheeled ride on devices with no steering grips, seats or handlebars. They are powered by a lithium-ion battery that is rechargeable through connection to a main power supply.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), with relevant state and territory regulators are responsible for ensuring consumer goods comply with safety requirements. This includes self-balancing scooters sold in the Australian market. The Minister for Small Business, along with state and territory counterparts, is responsible for ensuring the safety of consumer goods sold domestically.

Self-balancing scooters have been associated with a number of house fires in Australia since January 2016. In response to safety concerns, the Minister for Small Business imposed an interim ban on

self-balancing scooters that do not meet safety requirements. This followed advice from the ACCC on its findings during its safety investigation into self-balancing scooters and associated parts. The ban was extended twice and expired on 16 July 2016. The newly introduced mandatory safety standard has the same requirements as the interim ban.

# Further information

Further information about the safety standard can be obtained on the ACCC's website [http://www.accc.qov.au/update/new-mandatory-standard-to-ensure-safety-of-self-balan cing-scooters.](http://www.accc.qov.au/update/new-mandatory-standard-to-ensure-safety-of-self-balancing-scooters)

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18 July 2016