DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE

**No. 2017/22**

**Introduction of a domestic mandatory safety standard: decorative alcohol fuelled devices (ethanol burners)**

On 5 July 2017, the Minister for Small Business, the Honourable Michael McCormack, introduced a mandatory safety standard under the Australian Consumer Law for ethanol burners supplied in Australia. The mandatory safety standard took effect on 15 July 2017. Ethanol burners that do not meet safety requirements are not permitted for sale in Australia.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection does not regulate imported ethanol burners at the border or ensure that they conform to the requirements of the mandatory safety standard. Ethanol burners are not a prohibited or restricted import. However, importers should be aware of the mandatory safety standard that now applies to ethanol burners imported for commercial purposes to be sold domestically in Australia.

# Background

Ethanol-fuelled fireplaces and table-top burners are commonly sold in Australia. Recently, there have been a number of serious injuries associated with the use of these devices.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), with relevant state and territory regulators, are responsible for ensuring consumer goods comply with mandatory safety standards. This includes ethanol burners sold in the Australian market.

Ethanol burners have been associated with more than 100 injuries and at least 36 house fires across Australia since 2010. In response to safety concerns, the Minister for Small Business imposed an interim ban on ethanol burners that do not meet the mandatory safety standard. This followed advice from the ACCC on its findings during its safety investigation into ethanol burners. The interim ban expired on 14 July 2017. Suppliers have three months to transition from the interim ban and ensure their products meet mandatory safety standards.

# Further information

Further information about the mandatory safety standard is available on the ACCC’s website at https://[www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/decorative-alcohol-fuelled-devices.](http://www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/decorative-alcohol-fuelled-devices)

[signed] Joshua Hutton

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