

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2003/26

New import control - candles with lead core wicks

An amendment to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations) will be posted in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette of Monday 14 April 2003. The following commodities are to be controlled as Items 9 and 10 respectively of Schedule 12 of Regulation 4U of the Regulations:

Candles with wicks that contain greater than 0.06% lead by weight; and Candle wicks containing greater than 0.06% lead by weight

Regulation 4U prohibits the importation of goods subject to a permanent ban under the *Trade Practices Act 1974* unless permission in writing has been granted by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer. The controls have been introduced in response to medical evidence that lead emissions from candles with lead wick cores pose an unacceptable health risk.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, the Hon Ian Campbell MP, published a consumer protection notice in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on 30 October 2002 proclaiming a permanent ban on candles with lead wick cores. The previous Minister responsible for Consumer Affairs, the Hon Joe Hockey MP, had signed unsafe goods notices for these goods on 1 September 1999 and 19 March 2002.

The legislative authority for the amendment is the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment Regulations* 2003 (No.4) and is recorded in Statutory Rule 2003 No.54.

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