



Notification Number: 1989/298/F

**Order suspending for one year from the date of publication in the Official Journal of the French Republic the manufacture, importation and marketing of certain portable domestic kerosene stoves and requiring them to be withdrawn and returned.**

Date received : 05/12/1989

End of Standstill : Closed

Invocation of the Emergency Procedure : Yes

**Message**

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DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,  
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ATT. MR. J. NULTY

COPY : III/B/4 - PRE 68

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TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (89) D/14471/2  
TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS  
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC AND 88/182/EEC  
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001



NOTIFICATION 89/0298/F

- 3B4 : 8900994.EN

**1. Structured Information Line**

TLX 002 IND- 89 0298 F-- EN ----- 891205 --- ---

**2. Member State**

France

**3. Department Responsible**

Secretariat-General of the Interministerial Committee on  
European Economic Affairs, 216 Rue de l'Universite, 75700  
Paris

**3. Originating Department**

Directorate-General for Competition, Consumption and the  
Prevention of Fraud, Department for Quality and Safety of  
Industrial Products, Officell-3-13, Rue St Georges, 75009  
Paris

**4. Notification Number**

89/0298/F

**5. Title**

Order suspending for one year from the date of publication in  
the Official Journal of the French Republic the manufacture,  
importation and marketing of certain portable domestic  
kerosene stoves and requiring them to be withdrawn and  
returned.

**6. Products Concerned**

Portable stoves not connected to a flue gas pipe or chimney  
and using de-aromatized domestic kerosene as fuel.

**7. Notification Under Another Act**

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**8. Main Content**

The Order suspends the manufacture, importation and marketing  
of any appliance not fitted with a device for automatic  
shut-off in the case of atmospheric contamination by carbon  
monoxide. It provides for the withdrawal of such appliances  
and their return for modification, exchange or reimbursement.

**9. Brief Statement of Grounds**

The aim of the draft is to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.



The general requirement for heating appliances using liquid, solid or gaseous fuel is that they must be connected to a flue gas pipe or chimney.

The only derogation concerns portable gas heaters which are required to have a safety device such as that provided for in this Order.

The CO level in the Order is the same as that in the proposal for a Directive on gas appliances. Heaters placed on the French market will not be allowed in particular into the USA and the Federal Republic of Germany.

#### **10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts**

LawN83060 of 29July1983 on consumer safety

#### **11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

Yes

#### **12. Grounds for the Emergency**

This Order must be urgently adopted on grounds of public health and consumer safety.

More and more people are using portable domestic kerosene stoves as a means of heating. These stoves are easy and cheap to use for heating and are often used by certain underprivileged social groups. These are consumers who often prefer to use a dangerous heater rather than none at all.

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The heaters currently sold on the market are not fitted with a system for automatic shut-off in the case of atmospheric contamination by carbon monoxide. The potential hazard is even greater since distributors totally ignore the risks caused by using these stoves in dwellings, assure customers that they are perfectly safe and fail to inform them that departmental health regulations do not permit them to be used unless they are connected to a flue pipe or chimney.

The trade has to be required to call in stoves recently sold so that a safety device can be fitted, or to exchange them for new stoves fitted with such a device or, if neither an alteration nor an exchange is possible, to enable the purchase cost to be reimbursed.

Rapid action is all the more important in view of the fact that accidents involving these stoves, which are relatively new on the market, have recently occurred: the Lille anti-poison centre recently announced two cases of serious carbon monoxide poisoning. The victims, who were fortunately discovered in time, needed emergency hospital treatment and had to be resuscitated using high-pressure chambers.



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GROWTH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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