



To all interested stakeholders

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## Application and transitional period of EN 15494:2019 Candles – Product safety labels

Dear Sir or Madam,

The revised version of EN 15494 Candles – Product safety labels was accepted by CEN on 9 September 2019 and made available to CEN National Members on 6 November 2019. The CEN National Members will have time until 31 May 2020 to implement the revised version at national level and to withdraw the national implementations of the previous version EN 15494:2007. This deadline is called 'date of withdrawal', or 'DOW'.

EN 15494 specifies safety information for burning indoor candles and includes requirements on how safety information will be displayed on candles or their packaging. The existing supplementary safety information, which can be provided as text or symbols, has been partly reworked and additional supplementary safety information has been introduced by the new version. Manufacturers, importers and distributors of candles are expected to update the labels with the new texts or symbols gradually.

CEN/TC 369 was made aware of the fact that some individual stakeholders confuse the date of withdrawal with the final date, after which all candles that are put on the market, or even all candles that are on the market already, will have to show product safety labels according to the revised version of EN 15494. This assumption is not correct.

Firstly, the application of EN 15494 is voluntary and not legally binding. The product safety compliance of candles is not assessed based on a standard, but based on the General Product Safety Directive (Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on general product safety) or its national implementations in the Member States, respectively. The standard can serve as a guidance to determine the state of the art for a certain product group of course. But it does not mean that products that do not comply with the standard, because they are labelled according to a previous and now withdrawn version of the standard, should be assessed as unsafe automatically. The state of the art is an ever-evolving process that takes some time.

Secondly, it would also be impossible from a practical point of view to change all labels at such a short notice. Both manufacturers and distributors often must have rather large stocks of labels and labelled packaging as well as already produced and labelled goods. Replacing labels and packaging and

relabelling already produced goods is neither necessary from a safety point of view nor sustainable or feasible from a financial point of view.

Market surveillance authorities responsible for the product safety assessment are usually aware of these aspects and typically grant sufficiently long transitional periods before they start requesting companies to update their labels. For this reason, we do not expect any complaints by authorities about outdated labelling according to the previous version of EN 15494 in the near future.

In case of any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,

Stefan Thomann  
Chairman of CEN/TC 369

Hendrik Lüttgens  
Secretary of CEN/TC 369