RICK SNYDER GOVERNOR



STEVE ARWOOD DIRECTOR

Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act PA 56 of 2009 Effective January 1, 2010

Triennial Report Due 6/30/2013

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Executive Summary

Public Act 56 of 2009 - the "Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act" became effective January 1, 2010.

The Fire Safety Standard and Firefighters Protection Law (Public Act 56 2009) provides for the regulation of the sale and distribution of reduced ignition propensity cigarettes otherwise known as "fire safe cigarettes". These cigarettes are specifically manufactured to self-extinguish if they are left unattended. Under this law, cigarette manufacturers are required to certify that their product meets established stringent manufacturing and safety testing standards.

The law provides a performance standard for cigarettes and stipulates testing requirements for cigarettes sold in the state. The testing of cigarettes must be conducted in accordance with American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard E2187-04," Standard Test Method for Measuring the Ignition Strength of Cigarettes "and accredited pursuant to standard ISC/IEC 17025:2005 of the international organization for standardization.

The law also created the "Cigarette Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act" fund to account for the finances of this act. This fund is classified as a restricted fund within Michigan's General Fund. Unspent revenues at fiscal year close remain with the fund. The fund earns interest on the daily cash balance. LARA is the administrator of the fund for auditing purposes. The department shall expend money from the fund, upon appropriation, only for fire safety, prevention programs, processing, testing, enforcement, and oversight activities under this act.

The law requires the Department to review the effectiveness of the Act and report triennially no later than June 30 following the conclusion of each 3-year period to the Legislature and, if appropriate; make recommendations for legislation to improve the effectiveness of this Act.

General information about the program can be found on LARA's website at:

http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-35299 42271 42321---,00.html

Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act Data

Financial Information:

Manufacturers are required to be certified every three years. 2013 was the start of the second three year period.

Fiscal Year ending 9/30/2010:

Revenues:	\$1	28,992
Expenditures:	\$	929
Fund Balance:	\$ 1	28,062

Fiscal Year ending 9/30/2011:

Revenues:	\$	15,236
Expenditures:	\$	40,000
Fund Balance:	\$ 1	103,298

Fiscal Year ending 9/30/2012:

Revenues:	\$ 5,824
Expenditures:	\$ 38,734
Fund Balance:	\$ 70,388

Fiscal Year ending 9/30/2013:

Revenues:	\$ 103,193
Expenditures:	\$ 40,415
Fund Balance:	\$ 133,166

Our records indicate manufacturers comply with the certification performance standards. As of 2013, we currently have 24 active cigarette manufacturers and 89 active brand families.

Program Recap and Recommendations:

In 2011, the National Fire Protection Association (NPFA) Fire Analysis & Research (FAR) reported that U.S. fire departments estimated 90,000 smoking-material related incidents caused 540 civilian deaths, 1,640 civilian injuries, and \$621 million in direct property damages.

In that same year, NFPA and the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) surveyed that most deaths in home smoking–material fires were caused by fires ignited in bedrooms (40%) or in living rooms, family rooms, or dens (35%). The research found that bedroom fires are first ignited with the mattress or bedding (52% of fires) and the living or family rooms are first ignited by the upholstered furniture (42% of fires).

A July 2013 NFPA report, "The Smoking-Material Fire Problem" by John R. Halls, Jr. detailed the long-term trend in smoking-material fires declined 73% from 1980 to 2011. Mr. Halls wrote that the reduction in smoking-materials fires was helped by "the decline in smoking, the effect of standards and regulations that have made mattresses and upholstered furniture more resistant to cigarette ignition, and more recently, the adaption of fire-safe cigarette requirements throughout the country." The principal reason for a 30% decline in smoking-material fire deaths from 2003-2011 appears to be caused by the fire safe cigarettes.

Over the first three years period of Fire Standard and Firefighter Protection Law in Michigan, a primary concern expressed by cigarette manufacturers was a modest difficulty in using the program website during 2012. At that time, a new website was developed for the Fire Safe Cigarette Program.

Michigan, like most other states has passed laws that all Fire Safe Cigarettes sold must require sharply reduced ignition strength as determined by ASTM Standard E2187-04. The decline of the smoking–materials fires is due, in part, to the fire safe cigarette legislation.

Based on valid testing requirements, certifications, reasonable standards and acceptable FSC markings, the Bureau does not recommend any changes in the law at this time.