



Advisory – Adult Snappers

June 7, 2011

TO: APA Members

FROM: Julie L. Heckman, Executive Director

SUBJECT: APA Urges Removal of Adult Snappers from Retail Sales & Distribution

The purpose of this advisory is to ask all consumer fireworks importers, distributors and retailers to remove all Adult Snappers, sometimes referred to as Thunder Snaps, Mighty Poppers, or fuseless firecrackers from retail sales and distribution chains.

These devices have not been approved for transportation and do not have appropriate EX Approval numbers documenting classification and approval which are necessary before a product may be legally shipped. We suspect these devices have been transported as ‘snappers’ under the de-regulated novelty classification; however, these large snappers contain far more than the permissible limit of 1 mg of silver fulminate, and thus, must be approved and classified for transport based on testing as a new explosive under 49 CFR 173.56.

On June 2, 2011, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a guidance letter to Consumer Fireworks Importers after examining “Adult Snappers”. The CPSC stated that these devices, due to their similarity to firecrackers, should meet all applicable requirements for firecrackers, including appropriate cautionary labeling.

While the APA disputes CPSC’s guidance (conveyed in a letter to the Commission on June 7, 2011), you need to be aware that the CPSC may view sales of these products as a violation of law that could subject you to civil or criminal penalties. Additionally, PHMSA enforcement may issue penalties for the importation and distribution of unapproved explosives.

We share CPSC’s concerns about the risk presented by these Adult Snappers / Fuseless Firecrackers because of the amount of explosive content and the ease of detonation of these devices. Therefore, we encourage retailers to immediately remove these products from their shelves and distribution chains. Remember: these devices are friction sensitive and should be handled with extreme care to prevent detonation.

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