

# Bulletin

Comptroller of Maryland • Motor-fuel, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Regulatory Division • Goldstein Treasury Building  
P.O. Box 2999 • Annapolis, Maryland 21404-2999 • Telephone: 410-260-7314 • Fax: 410-974-3201  
Web Site: <http://compnet.comp.state.md.us>

**TT – 52**

**May 24, 2007**

**To:** Licensed Cigarette Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Sub-Wholesalers,  
Vending Machine Operators and Retailers

**Subject:** Fire Safe Cigarette Requirement – House Bill 785

On May 17, 2007, Governor Martin O'Malley signed HB 785, which became Chapter 497 of the Acts of 2007. Known simply as the "fire safe cigarette" law, it has a delayed effective date of **July 1, 2008**, and will require all cigarettes sold in Maryland be of the type that meets a certain performance standard to self extinguish under test conditions specified in the law.

Cigarette manufacturer's have the requirement to submit a written certification with the State Comptroller indicating that each brand of cigarettes sold meets the performance standard. Cigarettes must be recertified every 3 years. Specific penalties apply to manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers who continue to sell non-compliant cigarettes in Maryland that do not meet the performance standard, after the bill takes effect.

The Motor-fuel, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Regulatory Division (MATT) will be sending additional communications to the cigarette industry in order to assist in the implementation of this legislation. In the meantime, you can view House Bill 785 at the Maryland General Assembly's website which can be found at <http://mlis.state.md.us>.

Thad Russell  
Director