L.N. 59 of 1987

QUALITY CONTROL (EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND LOCAL GOODS) ACT, 1971 (ACT NO. XIII OF 1971)

Safety Matches Order, 1987 (Order No. M19 of 1987)

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Quality Control (Exports, Imports and Local Goods) Act, 1971, and in accordance with that section, the Malta Board of Standards has made the following order:—

Citation and commencement.

1.1 This Order may be cited as the Safety Matches Order, 1987, and may be referred to as Order No. M19 of 1987.

1.2 This Order shall become operative on a date after the lapse of 20 days from the day on which it is laid on the Table of the House of Representatives, which date shall be notified by the Board by notice in the Gazette.

Scope.

2.1 This Order applies to safety wood matches.

Interpretation.

3.1 In this Order —

3.1.1 "box" means the container in which wooden matches reach the consumer. It normally consists of an outer four-sided casing on which lies the striking surface and within which slides an inner tray containing the matches;

3.1.2 "wrapped packet" means a packet containing a number of boxes offered for retail sale.

Sample size.

4.1 In order to carry out all the required tests, the sample shall consist of 48 boxes which can be the contents of wrapped packets.

Average number in a box.

5.1. The contents of the 48 boxes shall be counted and the average number of matches in each box shall be not less than 40 subject to a tolerance of ± 2.5%.

Absence of afterglow.

6.1 When 400 random matches are tested by the method laid down in paragraph 14.1, not more than two per 100 matches shall have an afterglow which persists for more than 3 seconds.

Visual examination of matches.

7.1. When 500 random matches are visually examined, they shall not exhibit more than:

7.1.1 ten badly distorted heads in that the heads show pronounced abnormalities in shape or surface, especially heads which carry sharply defined peaks: such defectives shall be removed from the sample and shall not be included in further examinations;

7.1.2 five fractured heads in that the surface of the heads shall be broken or cracked: such defectives shall be removed from the sample and shall not be included in further examinations;

7.1.3 five doubles in that the heads are linked together by a bridge of composition: such defectives shall be removed from the sample and shall not be included in further examinations;

7.1.4 five splints with heads missing: such defectives shall be removed from the sample and shall not be included in further examinations.

Functional examination of matches.

8.1 These tests shall be carried out on the remainder of the matches after visual examination. Samples shall be exposed in an atmosphere at 18 — 24°C and 65% ± 5% relative humidity for a minimum of one hour before striking tests are carried out and the tests shall be made at this temperature. The covers of samples shall be removed during this period.

The matches when held in turn between the first finger and thumb at an angle of 30° to the friction paint and struck in the direction such that the head is trailing, with the minimum pressure necessary to ensure ignition, shall not exhibit more than:

8.1.1 five splints which break out of every 100 matches tested;

8.1.2 one head which drips hot ash out of every 100 matches tested: during the striking tests the matches shall be held over a sheet of white paper; any burn marks resulting from the dropping of hot ash shall be noted;

8.1.3 one head which shoots or explodes out of every 100 matches tested, in that it burns violently, scattering hot particles or explodes on striking;

8.1.4 one match which does not transfer the flame from the match head to the splint out of every 100 matches tested: after striking, the matches shall be immediately held in a horizontal position clear of the box in a draught free atmosphere; the flame shall readily transfer from the match head to the splint.

Visual examination of boxes.

9.1 The 48 boxes shall be visually examined. The friction paint shall have been applied to the whole or part of the sides of the outer casing and none shall have appeared on the inside of the box.

Functional examination of boxes.

10.1 Boxes shall be functionally examined as follows:

10.1.1 *Correct fit of inner tray:* The 48 boxes shall in turn, be lightly held by the outer casing in a vertical position. The inner tray shall not drop out under the weight of its contents.

10.1.2 *Friction paint:* Four random boxes shall be subjected to this test. It shall be possible to strike the contents of the box on half the area of the friction paint provided. During this test the paint shall not

take fire and burn following the striking of a match. Instances in which such burning occurs and embraces an area greater than 40mm^2 shall constitute a failure.

Non-ignition.

11.1 It shall not be possible to ignite any of the matches by rubbing on 00 glass paper.

Ignition temperature.

12.1 Twelve matches shall be supported in holes approximately 9.5mm apart in a metal plate. The matches shall then be introduced into an oven thermostatically controlled at 170°C and maintained at this temperature for 10 minutes. Under these conditions the matches shall not ignite.

Labelling.

13.1 Every box and every wrapped packet of matches shall bear a label showing in clear and easily readable print the following information:—

13.1.1 the brand name or trade mark;

13.1.2 alternatively the name and address of the manufacturer.

13.1.3 Where the brand name is not entered in a list kept by the Director of Industry nor is the trade mark registered with the Comptroller of Industrial Property, the inclusion in the label of the name and address of the manufacturer shall be compulsory.

Method of testing.

14.1 One hundred matches shall be selected at random and the bases of the splints inserted in holes set out in square formation at 9.5 ± 0.127mm spacing in a steel plate, the holes being of such a size as to support the matches firmly. The holes shall not be staggered as this affects the accuracy of the test.

14.2 A flame shall be applied to the outside row of matches and the plate tilted so as to ignite all the matches. The splints shall be allowed to burn away completely and when the flame dies out the ashed remains of the splints shall be examined for afterglow. The duration of afterglow on any match shall be timed by means of a stop-watch.

Ippubblikat mid-Dipartiment ta' l-Informazzjoni – Kastilja — Published by the Department of Information – Kastilja
Mitbugh fl-Istamperija tal-Gvern — *Printed at the Government Printing Press*

Prezz 4c — *Price 4c*