



In this test, a birthday candle ignited a child's "boombox" in less than 10 seconds. The resulting fire was capable of engulfing a child's bedroom in fire within three minutes. A new international fire safety standard requires electronic products to resist a candle flame for three minutes with no flame spread.



CONSUMER WARNING: POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARD WITH CHINESE-MADE ELECTRONICS SOLD FOR USE BY CHILDREN

The National Association of State Fire Marshals, retailers and certain electronics manufacturers are in consultation on two models of Chinese-made products, which preliminary testing suggests pose a potentially serious fire hazard due to the highly flammable nature of their outer enclosures. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has been notified by the retailer of these products.

Pending further testing, consumers are advised to be careful with open flames around all computer and consumer electronic equipment such as computer game devices, "boomboxes," computer keyboards, speakers, ink-jet printers and all other consumer electronic and computer equipment sold for use in the home. Such precautions include the following:

1. Keep all candles at least 2 feet (24 inches) from the plastic outer enclosure of such devices.
2. Remove these products immediately from children's rooms, and especially those of children with known or suspected fire-setting behavior.
3. Before purchasing consumer electronics and computer equipment for the home, read the product literature to determine if their outer enclosures meet the flammability standard UL 94 V-1 or better, or that they meet the requirements of the International Electrotechnical Commission's technical specification IEC TS 62441 or equivalent, and that a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories has tested the outer enclosure of the products to ensure their resistance to ignition.

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