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Determination Outcome by the DTI S.o.S. on the use of ionizing radiation in the Safety Toaster application

Department of Trade and Industry

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Dear Mr. Brown,

We are pleased to let you know that your safety toaster can now be regarded as determined under existing practices no. 15 of the Annex 3 to Defra Guidance on the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 – SI 2004 No. 1769, which covers safety devices: use of ionising radiation in smoke and fire detectors and other safety instruments.

The Secretary of State notes:

I am satisfied that this application is determined as belonging to existing practices because it is an accepted use of radiation for smoke detectors and this new application has been considered carefully and raises no fresh issues of concern. I have asked myself how the conclusions of the process, which have been very exhaustive, will be seen by the public. For me the fact that the luminous face of the wrist watch gives off more radiation than a single point smoke detector sets the context of weighing up the full picture of benefits and detriments while reducing danger and nuisance provides a valuable benefit. From a layman's perspective therefore, the conclusions are sensible. The product will of course have to satisfy standard safety requirements and comply with environmental and other legislation.

Attached is the Justifying Authority's statement on its proposed justification determination for the Safety Toaster application, together with the consultation report on which it is based.

These documents will be made publicly available on the Defra website. We will let you know when. Please read these documents carefully, they spell out what was required to come to a view on justification and what is now needed to satisfy the recommended specific prior authorisation process, which the safety toaster must undergo as a new product before being deemed safe for the market. The consultation report also makes clear, whom to turn to for advice.

The specific prior authorisation process for the safety toaster will need to include a risk assessment and prototype testing by the HPA-RPD to ascertain the product's integrity and acceptability over the course of its life cycle: the issue of quality assurance is particularly important, given manufacture takes place abroad. Officials here and across other government departments will be happy to advise on individual details.

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Finally, we note that you did not offer an alternative to radiation use in the safety toaster. Please be aware that if justified smoke detectors (category 15 of the Defra Annex) are reviewed in the light of new and important evidence about their efficacy or consequences this may impact directly on the safety toaster, which incorporates the justified smoke detectors.

Best regards

B. Schwarz

Barbara Schwarz

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