

TRADE STANDARDS AND QUALITY CONTROL DECREE 1992
(DECREE NO. 24 OF 1992)

**Trade Standard (Safety Information
Standard For Hot Water Bottle) Order 2011**

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 30 of the Trade Standards and Quality Control Decree 1992 and in considering the public interest and recommendation of the Council, I make this Order—

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Trade Standard (Safety Information Standard for Hot Water Bottle) Order 2011 and shall come into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette*.

Safety Standard for Hot Water Bottle

2. For the purposes of the Decree, the standard for Safety Standard for Hot water bottle imported, manufactured and sold in Fiji is set out in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

SAFETY INFORMATION STANDARD FOR HOT WATER BOTTLE

1. The following Safety Standard on hot water bottle is adopted from the Australian Trade Practices Act 1974 (Consumer Product Safety Standard) (Hot Water Bottle) Regulations 2008.

2. Definition

'hot water bottle' – means a container made from PVC or rubber; and designed to be completely or partly filled with hot water; and sealed with a stopper; and used for the purpose of warming parts of the body or a bed; and that includes a ferrule; a filing aperture; a neck block; a stopper.

'Integral filling funnel' means a funnel that is designed to assist the safe filling of a hot water bottle.

'Neck block' means the top of a hot water bottle when the hot water bottle is being filled.

'PVC' means polyvinyl chloride.

'Stopper' means a device that is designed to be inserted into the neck block of a hot water bottle to trap water in the body of a hot water bottle.

3. Labeling

Hot water bottle should be labeled on the outer package, provided they are sold in the outer pack with the warning message; *"Do not use boiling water"*.

4. Information on Labels

Labels on hot water bottle shall contain the following information:

(a) the word 'hot water bottle' permanently marked on the hot water bottle; and

(b) prominently displayed on the hot water bottle, the following—

“WARNING—HOT WATER BOTTLES CAN CAUSE BURNS.

AVOID PROLONGED DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE SKIN.”

5. Each hot water bottle must be accompanied by 1 of the following warning message:

(a) for a hot water bottle that is designed to be partly filled—

“this hot water bottle is designed to be partly filled”,

(b) for a hot water bottle that is designed to be completely filled—

“this hot water bottle is designed to be completely filled”.

6. Each hot water bottle made of natural rubber must be accompanied by the following warning message:

“this hot water bottle is made of natural rubber.”

7. Safety warning "CAUTION":

Hot water bottles should be used with care, particularly around young children and the elderly.

- (i) Never use boiling water directly from kettle to fill a hot water bottle.
- (ii) Never fill a hot water bottle near children where a spill could cause a burn injury.
- (iii) Never leave a hot water bottle in a cot with your child.
- (iv) Never try to close the lid by holding it close to chest.
- (v) Do not use a hot water bottle without a wrap or cover.
- (vi) Never place weight or pressure on a hot water bottle: it may burst.
- (vii) Lying on a bottle can be especially dangerous.

8. Safety Hazard hot water bottle:

- (a) Hot water bottles can be comforting for warmth or assist with injury treatment. However, incorrect use can result in serious burns. Burn injuries have resulted when filling a hot water bottle or expelling air from the bottle.
- (b) Over time, rubber hot water bottles can perish, increasing the risk of leaks or splitting at the same—especially if placed under pressure by a person lying on it in bed.

9. Safety Checklist for hot water bottles:

- (a) Before you buy a hot water bottle:
 - (i) Check that the hot water bottle is well made, especially around the seams.
 - (ii) Be aware that rubber hot water bottles may perish over time. Hot water bottles made from neoprene or other synthetic materials may last longer.
 - (iii) Choose a hot water bottle with a large opening— this can reduce the risk of hot water splashing over you when filling.
- (b) Take care when filling a hot water bottle:
 - (i) Check the condition of the bottle before filling it. Discard it if it shows any sign of perishing or splitting.
 - (ii) Ensure the water temperature is well below boiling. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot for the bottle.
 - (iii) Always fill a hot water bottle over a sink and keep the bottle well away from your body to avoid serious burns.
 - (iv) Take care not to overfill or pour water too quickly into the bottle.
 - (v) Keep the filled hot water bottle away from your body when expelling air from it—the hot water could splash back and burn you.
 - (vi) Make sure the plug is properly fitted and sealed to prevent hot water leaking out.

10. Before using a hot water bottle:

- (i) Wrap the bottle in a towel or cover before using it to help prevent burns.
- (ii) You should use the hot water bottle to warm the bed and remove it before getting into bed.
- (iii) Store your hot water bottle in a cool, dry location. Keeping the bottle in a damp area or in sunlight can lead to perishing.

For further information please contact the Trade Standards Office or write to:

The Director
National Trade Measurement & Standards
P.O Box 2118
Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji.

Date at Suva this 9th day of August 2010.

AIYAZ SAYED-KHAIYUM
Attorney-General & Minister
for Justice, Anti-Corruption, Public Enterprises,
Communications, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Industry & Trade
