



19 April 2012

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By email

Dear Mr Haddad, Mr Huang,

**Re: IEC Standards 60065 and 62368 – correspondence for the Australian Standards Committee**

I write in relation to the above international standards. I understand your role is secretariat support for an upcoming Standards Australia vote on these standards and the Standards Australia committee will decide its vote very soon.

Statistically, almost half of all home fires are stated in the kitchen and 43% of all fire fatalities occur in winter (due in part to heater use).<sup>i</sup> Cooking equipment and heating equipment and fixed wiring all pose the greatest fire risks.<sup>ii</sup> A change to fire retardant standards for televisions is unlikely to make much difference to fire incidence. However, the proposed changes will greatly increase risk in one area – to our members.

The fire retardants in question are likely carcinogens.<sup>iii</sup> Our members are already at risk of an increased incidence of cancer because of their work. The Federal Parliament recently amended workers compensation legislation to recognise the increased disease burden borne by firefighters because of their occupational exposure to carcinogens. I attach the amendment for your information. Our Union made a joint submission with the Northern Territory firefighters Union to the Senate Committee inquiry examining carcinogen exposure and firefighting that led to this important legislative change. Similar changes are being campaigned for in State jurisdictions. Our submission is also attached for your information, and can be accessed along with all submissions in this matter here:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate\\_Committees?url=eet\\_ctte/firefighters/submissions.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=eet_ctte/firefighters/submissions.htm).

Fire Brigade Employees' Union (FBEU)

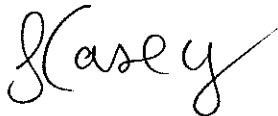
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In short, the proposed changes to the international standard may increase risk to our members without a measurable reduction in risk to the community. On that basis, we ask you to make this correspondence available to the Committee for their consideration. Standards Australia should, in our view, vote against the proposed changes.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Industrial Officer Claire Pullen.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey". The letters are cursive and connected, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the 'y'.

Jim Casey  
State Secretary

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=879>

<sup>ii</sup> Hall, John R, 'Fires Involving Appliance Housings – Is There a Clear and Present Danger?', *Fire Technology*, 38.2 (April 2002):179, p 180.

<sup>iii</sup> Blum, Arlene, 'The Case against Candle Resistant TVs', version 04-06-2008, from [chemicalwatch.com/downloads/EEB%20candle%20resistant.pdf](http://chemicalwatch.com/downloads/EEB%20candle%20resistant.pdf), p 1, 6.