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## **Sparkler Testing and Certification Program For Countries other than China**

At the request of the U.S. industry, AFSL is establishing a program for testing and certifying Sparklers (Hand-Held Sparkling Devices) under the China Fireworks Quality Improvement Program (QIP). Testing will be performed under the supervision of the QIP operations in China but will be physically conducted at a Sparkler manufacturer located in Bangkok, Thailand. Following the initial training and testing phase conducted by one Senior Certified Technician based in China, all additional testing will be conducted by two technicians based in Bangkok who have been specially trained and certified to test Sparklers.

**Note that while the initial phase of this program is being designed for operation in Bangkok, Thailand, the program will be expanded to include other countries as needed to accommodate production of sparklers in those countries.**

### **A. INITIAL TRAINING PROGRAM.**

1. One Senior Certified Technician from SGS China Fireworks Team will be appointed as Trainer.
2. The initial training will be launched on August 19, 2010 during which time the Trainer and two Thailand technicians will participate in the AFSL Annual Technician Training Program conducted August 19 – 21, 2010. Following the Technician Training session, the Trainer and two Thailand technicians will participate in one week of on-site training/testing in the QIP program in China. During the on-site training in China, the Bangkok technicians will conduct field testing of Sparklers under supervision of the Trainer and visit sparkler factories to become familiar with operations.
3. The Trainer will travel to SGS Bangkok to supervise the first testing/inspection intervention by the two SGS Bangkok technicians. Upon completion of the first testing/inspection intervention, the Bangkok technicians will be prepared to handle all future inspections without direct supervision from the Trainer. AFSL will conduct periodic compliance on-site audits of the Bangkok sparkler testing program to assure testing is being performed correctly.

### **B. NORMAL TESTING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.**

1. After the initial training is completed, applications for testing will be submitted by the Shipper to the SGS Bangkok office for scheduling of testing/inspection of sparklers. The Shipper will confirm the schedule with Bangkok SGS at least one week prior to the inspection/test day. SGS Bangkok should

inform SGS China once the schedule is confirmed. The Shipper will make every effort to group applications for testing so that a minimum of 1,000 cases of merchandise will be tested during each factory visit. Inspection/testing interventions involving less than 1000 cases could be subject to an additional service charge to cover travel costs.

2. Once SGS China gets the schedule from SGS Bangkok, SGS China will arrange for the Trainer to travel to Thailand one day before the inspection/test day to supervise the initial round of testing/inspection conducted by the two SGS Bangkok technicians.
3. The SGS Bangkok testing reports shall be reviewed and signed by the Trainer on site during the first round of testing (see A.3, above). For subsequent testing/inspection interventions, test reports will be faxed to the Trainer in China for review and approval.

### **C. ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATIONAL DETAILS.**

All administrative and Operational procedures will be identical to those applied to regular merchandise certified under the QIP, including applications for testing, assignment of Lot ID numbers, sample size and selection procedures, recording of test results, entry of data into the AFSL Testing Data base, with the following exceptions:

1. As noted above, applications for testing will be submitted by the Shipper to the SGS Bangkok office rather than the China office. Test reports will be signed by the SGS Bangkok technicians and approved by the Trainer, either on-site during the first round of testing or by fax during subsequent rounds of testing.
2. AFSL will create a special code for testing done in Thailand to entry into the Database to allow for tracking of all testing for Sparklers.

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