

Released under FOI



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

Submission to Standards Review Meeting

Date of meeting 02-March-2017

Meeting number 13

Trackit PRJ1002066

Title Expanding the scope of the mandatory safety standard for self-balancing scooters: draft consultation paper

Recommendation We seek feedback on the draft public consultation paper for our review of the safety standard for self-balancing scooters

Project staff Simon Bell (X 1232), Sarah McDonald (X 4994), Isabel Ward (X 3038), Gena O'Brien (X 1216)

Responsible SES John Jamieson (A/g) (X 4954)

Division, Branch and Office Consumer Product Safety Branch

Legal/Economic input This paper contains confidential and privileged material (shaded)

Conflict of interest Rickard Court

Attachments Yes

Released under FOI

1. Purpose

- 1.1 We seek feedback on the consultation paper for the review of the mandatory safety standard for self-balancing scooters—which includes an option to include single wheel self-balancing scooters—in preparation for public consultation.

2. Background

- 2.1 The mandatory safety standard for self-balancing scooters started on 17 July 2016 and will expire on 16 July 2018. The ACCC continues to work with state and territory electrical regulators to achieve a long term regulatory solution to capture very low voltage appliances under state and territory electrical safety laws.
- 2.2 The safety standard for two wheeled self-balancing scooters was developed to reduce the risk of house fires and to protect occupants from serious injury.
- 2.3 The safety standard for self-balancing scooters is being reviewed to consider broadening the scope of the safety standard to include single wheeled self-balancing scooters, otherwise known as 'monoboards'.
- 2.4 Recent ACCC testing of a single-wheeled device identified failure against parts of the safety standard and certain criteria of Energy Safe Victoria's (ESV) requirements for self-balancing scooters (the ESV requirements apply to single wheeled devices). The ESV prohibition notice for self-balancing scooters is regulation that applies within the Victorian jurisdiction.
- 2.5 The product that failed parts of the safety standard and the ESV prohibition notice was recalled.
- 2.6 The OBPR has advised that a regulatory impact statement is not required.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 We will inform the Minister prior to consultation.
- 3.2 We will consult publicly for 6 weeks using the ACCC consultation hub and will alert other ACL regulators, email stakeholders and promote the consultation on the Product Safety Australia and business.gov.au websites.

4. Analysis to support the recommendation

- 4.1 The consultation paper proposes the following policy options:
 - Option 1 – Keep the current safety standard, which does not include single wheel self-balancing scooters (status quo)
 - Option 2 – Remake the safety standard to include single wheeled self-balancing scooters.
- 4.2 Our preliminary position is that Option 2 would be likely to provide the greatest net benefit to consumers, suppliers and regulators.
- 4.3 Expanding the safety standard for two wheeled self-balancing scooters to include single wheeled self-balancing scooters would improve protection for consumers in the absence of uniform electrical safety regulations.
- 4.4 Safety standards are a proactive way of protecting consumers against hazards, which in this case is the risk of fire.

5. Attachment

Consultation paper (9 pages).