



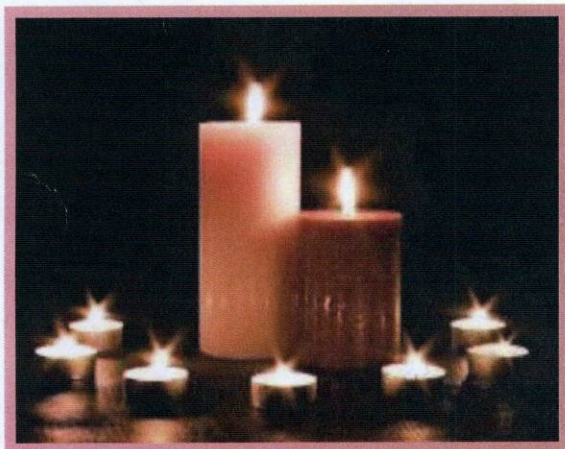
16 October 2013

**FDA ADVISORY**  
**No. 2013 041**

**SUBJECT: CONSUMER TIPS ON THE SAFE USE OF CANDLES**

All Souls' Day is just around the corner and the demand for candles, both scented and unscented ones, has increased. Some consumers stock up on candles not only in preparation for the day of prayer for the dead, but as gifts for their relatives and friends. These candles come in handy at home as well as in case of brownouts and emergencies.

Under Republic Act No. 9711, otherwise known as the FDA Act of 2009, candles are



considered as health products, and are categorized as household hazardous substances or articles. The FDA will make sure that candles are not sources of hazards at home. The FDA will eventually inform all candle manufacturers, importers and distributors to secure a License to Operate and apply for market authorization of their products from the FDA. So far, there is one scented candle registered with the FDA. The FDA will focus on the safety of the wicks, wax and scents and colors used in them. Cotton and hemp wicks, as well as metal-free wicks, burn cleanly and safely. Candles made from beeswax, palm or other vegetable wax, and paraffin are

considered safe. Scented candles that use essential oil are not known to have any negative health effects. Smokes or scents emitted by candles are not known to trigger allergies in hypersensitive persons.

A well-made candle does not emit smoke when burning properly, but it is always good and safe to remember to burn candles in a well-ventilated area.

Candle is a safe product, but the public is reminded to exercise safety precautions when burning candles. Burning candles should never be left unattended, making sure to keep them out of the reach of pets and children. Never burn candles near articles that easily catch fire. Do not burn candles all the way down to the bottom. Keep burning candles wide apart to ensure proper combustion and to prevent formation of soot. Never use candles as night light while sleeping and make sure to extinguish all burning candles before going to sleep. If





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a burning candle flickers or emits a lot of smoke, it is best to replace it with a new one. If possible, do not use candles to look for lost things at night, especially when looking in the closet. It is safe to use a flashlight.

For more information and inquiry, kindly email us at [info@fda.gov.ph](mailto:info@fda.gov.ph).

  
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