



## **Media Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

**26 March, 2010**

Voluntary Recall of the Heat Beads® Barbecue Starter Product NO HB152ST, sold in the Australian market between 1st December 2008 and 30th September 2009.

Investigation into a recent report of melting handles on some Heat Beads® Barbecue Starter's and subsequent quality review of earlier models has revealed an additional product defect in some units.

Independent analysis shows that a heat resistant strip included in 800 units designed in Europe, produced in China, and sold Australia wide, contains Chrysotile Asbestos (White Asbestos).

Australian Char stresses that the product poses little risk to consumers during normal usage. The asbestos is non-friable (i.e. when dry, cannot be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure), is contained, and the potential for airborne fibres during normal usage is minimal.

Australian Char takes its responsibility to its consumers seriously and despite low distribution of the product has acted quickly and responsibly with the support of industry and government groups. Notified of the analysis on the 24th March 2010 the company contacted the relevant Government Authority (the ACCC) immediately.

We continue to work closely with these groups to ensure our obligations to our consumers are fulfilled.

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