



UNITED STATES  
**CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**  
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

CHAIR ALEXANDER HOEHN-SARIC

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Charles Allen  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and the Environment  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave N.W., Suite 110  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Allen:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an independent federal safety agency responsible for protecting consumers from unreasonable risks of injury and death associated with consumer products.

I am writing to you today to urge you to include safety provisions in any legislation for the District of Columbia that creates incentives for consumers to purchase e-bikes. Specifically, I urge you to ensure that any e-bikes supported through the program you are considering are designed, manufactured, and certified for compliance with the applicable consensus safety standards to reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires.

As you likely know, there has been a rise in recent years in fires and other thermal events involving micro-mobility products—including e-scooters, self-balancing scooters (often referred to as hoverboards), e-bicycles, and e-unicycles. From January 1, 2021, through November 28, 2022, CPSC received reports from 39 states of at least 208 micro-mobility fire or overheating incidents. These incidents resulted in at least 19 fatalities, including three deaths associated with e-bikes.

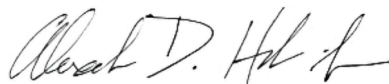
The applicable consensus safety standard for e-bikes in the United States is ANSI/CAN/UL 2849 – *Standard for Safety for Electrical Systems for eBikes* (the UL standard) dated June 17, 2022. The UL standard was designed to reduce the serious risk of dangerous fires in these products. Accredited testing laboratories can determine compliance with the UL standard.

In December 2022, CPSC wrote to more than 2,000 manufacturers and retailers of micro-mobility products, including e-bikes, urging them to comply with this and other voluntary standards that apply to micro-mobility products. The letter ([linked here](#) and attached) informed industry that compliance with the relevant safety standards significantly reduces the risk of injuries and deaths from micro-mobility device fires, and failure to adhere to applicable UL standard could pose an unreasonable risk to consumers of fire and serious injury or death.

One of the bills currently under consideration by your committee already includes language requiring e-bikes sold through the program meet applicable safety standards. That bill, B25-0115, includes a provision limiting products sold through the program to those that meet “safety standards issued by DDOT, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, or any other District or federal agency that has issued safety standards for e-bikes.” At this time, there are no mandatory safety standards issued by the CPSC governing the electrical systems for e-bikes. I therefore encourage you to amend the language of B25-0115 to require – at least until such time as there are mandatory standards in place – any e-bikes sold through the program to meet the then-applicable version of ANSI/CAN/UL 2849.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments. CPSC staff is available to the Council as a resource or to provide technical assistance as it further develops this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander D. Hoehn-Saric". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alexander Hoehn-Saric  
Chair



United States  
**Consumer Product Safety Commission**

December 19, 2022

Dear Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors, and Retailers of Micromobility Devices for Consumer Use:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an independent federal regulatory agency responsible for protecting consumers from unreasonable risks of injury and death from consumer products.

As you may be aware, in recent years there has been a rise in fires and other thermal events involving micromobility products—including e-scooters, self-balancing scooters (often referred to as hoverboards), e-bicycles, and e-unicycles. From January 1, 2021, through November 28, 2022, CPSC received reports from 39 states of at least 208 micromobility fire or overheating incidents. These incidents resulted in at least 19 fatalities, including 5 deaths associated with e-scooters, 11 with hoverboards, and 3 with e-bikes. CPSC also received reports of at least 22 injuries that resulted in emergency department visits, with 12 of the injuries involving e-scooters and 10 of them involving e-bikes.

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the micromobility devices for consumer use that you manufacture, import, distribute, or sell in the United States have been designed, manufactured, and certified for compliance with the applicable consensus safety standards.<sup>1</sup> These safety standards include ANSI/CAN/UL 2272 – *Standard for Electrical Systems for Personal E-Mobility Devices* dated February 26, 2019, and ANSI/CAN/UL 2849 – *Standard for Safety for Electrical Systems for eBikes* dated June 17, 2022, and standards they incorporate by reference. The UL standards, which can be viewed for free and purchased from the UL Standards Sales Site,<sup>2</sup> were designed to reduce the serious risk of dangerous fires in these products. Compliance with the standards should be demonstrated by certification from an accredited testing laboratory.

Manufacturing these products in compliance with the applicable UL standards significantly reduces the risk of injuries and deaths from micromobility device fires. Consumers face an unreasonable risk of fire and risk serious injury or death if their micromobility devices do not meet the level of safety provided by the relevant UL standards. Accordingly, products that do not meet these standards could present a substantial product hazard under Section 15(a) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(a); and, should CPSC's Office of Compliance and

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<sup>1</sup> This letter supersedes the letter from Robert S. Kaye dated February 22, 2018, to Manufacturers, Importers, and Retailers of Self-Balancing Scooters.

<sup>2</sup> <https://standardscatalog.ul.com/ProductDetail.aspx?productId=UL2272> (UL 2272),  
[https://www.shopulstandards.com/ProductDetail.aspx?productId=UL2849\\_1\\_S\\_20200102](https://www.shopulstandards.com/ProductDetail.aspx?productId=UL2849_1_S_20200102) (UL 2849).



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Field Operations encounter such products, we will seek corrective action as appropriate.

I urge you to review your product line immediately and ensure that all micromobility devices that you manufacture, import, distribute, or sell in the United States comply with the relevant UL standards.<sup>3</sup> Failure to do so puts U.S. consumers at risk of serious harm and may result in enforcement action.

Please also note that Section 15(b) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b), requires every manufacturer, importer, distributor, and retailer of consumer products to report immediately to the Commission when the firm obtains information that reasonably supports the conclusion that a product distributed in commerce contains a defect that could create a substantial product hazard or that the product creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. The statute also provides for imposition of civil and criminal penalties for failing to report the required information.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, you may contact [micromobility@cpsc.gov](mailto:micromobility@cpsc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Kaye", written over a light gray grid background.

Robert S. Kaye  
*Director*  
*Office of Compliance and Field Operations*

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<sup>3</sup> Any third-party certification body that is accredited by an international accreditation body for ANSI/CAN/UL 2272 or ANSI/CAN/UL 2849 product certification is acceptable to ensure compliance.