



Retailer Update



Dear JP Industry Retailer,

Below please find updates on several issues affecting the juvenile products industry. We aim to keep you informed on these issues and will continue to send you regular updates as necessary.

Plastic Water Bottles Won't Hurt You

Canada has announced it will ban the chemical bisphenol A -- known as BPA -- which is used to make plastic water and baby bottles. But the evidence doesn't actually show that BPA is toxic. The initial studies injected BPA into animals, rather than giving it by mouth, which is how we humans are exposed. Since BPA degrades in the gut when we consume it, very little gets to our cells. Yet many people are sure BPA causes not only breast and prostate cancer but also obesity, diabetes, attention deficit hyperactivity, autism, liver disease, ovarian disease, disease of the uterus, low sperm count and heart disease. When a chemical is said to cause so many disorders, that's a sure sign of unscientific hysteria. But a documentary called "Tapped" says it's true. It quotes experts claiming "BPA may be one of the most potent toxic chemicals known to man."

Nonsense. Not only is there no good evidence that BPA locked into plastic can hurt people, it actually saves lives by stopping botulism. "Since BPA became commonplace in the lining of canned goods, food-borne illness from canned foods -- including botulism -- has virtually disappeared," says the American Council of Science and Health.

But if BPA isn't toxic, why will Canada ban it? And why have Connecticut and Minnesota already done so? Because scientifically illiterate legislators are quick to panic. When the media sensationalize, legislators respond. Two FDA scientists -- Ronald J. Lorentzen and David G. Hattan --[AZ1] note the bias toward sensationalism: "The disquieting public invocations made by some ... about the perils of exposure (to BPA) ... galvanize the public debate." When even notoriously risk-averse FDA scientists speak out against the BPA panic, the scaremongers must have gone absurdly far.

Click here to read more:

<http://patriotpost.us/opinion/john-stossel/2010/10/27/plastic-water-bottles-wont-hurt-you/>

Wash. compiles list of chemicals toxic to children <<http://dailycaller.com/2010/10/26/wash-compiles-list-of-chemicals-toxic-to-children/>>

Manufacturers of children's products would be required to report whether toys, cosmetics, jewelry, apparel and other items contain certain harmful chemicals, under new rules proposed by Washington state. Officials have come up with a list of 59 chemicals that would trigger reporting to the state. The list includes cadmium, formaldehyde, benzene and bisphenol A.

Manufacturers of products intended for sale in Washington would report how much of the chemicals are in their products and how they are being used, such as to kill germs or harden plastics. The rules also would apply to retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. that directly import products into the U.S.

Reporting would begin in 2012 for the largest manufacturers, or those with gross sales of over \$1 billion. It would phase in over the next several years for smaller companies. The first round of reporting applies to products intended for children 3 and under or likely to be put in a child's mouth, such as feeding products, or on their skin, such as lotions and creams. Clothes, jewelry, bedding and car seats come next, followed by toys.

Rick Locker, general counsel for the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, said his group is still evaluating the rules. JPMA represents about 300 companies, including Fisher-Price. "Our view is that children's products, particularly infant products, should not contain any hazardous substance that is accessible to the child," he said.

Click here to read more: <http://dailycaller.com/2010/10/26/wash-compiles-list-of-chemicals-toxic-to-children/#ixzz143SQleWz>

Nearly All Incumbents on Congressional CPSC Subcommittees Will Be in Next Congress

Only one incumbent, a Democrat, on the congressional subcommittees with jurisdiction over CPSC lost his reelection campaign, bucking a trend in an election in which many Democratic legislators lost their seats. Rep. Zachary Space (D-Ohio) lost to Bob Gibbs (R). Additionally, three other Democrats, who are retiring, will be replaced by Republicans. Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.) will be replaced by Diane Black (R), Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) will be replaced by Dan Benishek (R), and Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) will be replaced by John Hoeven (R). Also retiring is Rep. George Radanovich (R-Calif.); fellow Republican Jeff Denham will replace him.

Click here to read more: <http://www.productsafetyletter.com/news/6799-1.html>

Wash. State Moves on Kid Product Reporting Rule

The Washington State Department of Ecology is accepting comments until December 31 on the Children's Safe Products Reporting Rule, which is part of the Children's Safe Product Act. The agency also will hold a public hearing on December 9. The law was enacted in 2008 (PSL, 4/7/08, p.4).

Under the proposal, manufacturers will have to report to the agency if children's products contain

substances on the state's list of chemicals of high concern to children (CHCC). Those 59 substances include bisphenol-A (BPA), cadmium and di-n-hexyl phthalate. The rules assert the presence of the substances do not necessarily mean the products are harmful.

Click here to read more: <http://dailycaller.com/2010/10/26/wash-compiles-list-of-chemicals-toxic-to-children/#ixzz143SQIeWz>

GM recalls midsize pickups for child seat problem

General Motors and Isuzu are recalling more than 192,000 midsize pickups to fix a problem with child safety seat anchors.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says the recall affects the Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon models from the 2004 to 2011 model years. Also affected are Isuzu I-280 and I-350 pickups from 2006 and I-290 and I-370 models from 2007 and 2008. The Isuzus are built by GM.

NHTSA says the trucks have a bench front seat with no rear seat. It says the top anchor for the front center seat is not accessible and the owner's manual has no instructions on how to use it.

No injuries or accidents have been reported. Dealers will cut a hole in a back seat panel to fix the problem.

Click here to read more: <http://www.jpma.org/pdfs/RCMN-10V575-2048.pdf>

We will continue to keep you informed on these and other issues affecting the JP industry.

Thank you.

Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)

15000 Commerce Parkway

Suite C

Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

856-638-0420

jpma@jpma.org

www.jpma.org <<http://www.jpma.org/>>

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