

Greening of Consumer Products

an Allen Matkins
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publication

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Toy makers settle lead-contaminated toy lawsuit in California

Insurance Journal - Dec 5

California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo have reached a settlement with Mattel Inc. and several other toy makers that will "safeguard California's children" from lead-contaminated toys this Christmas. Although a new federal law ratcheting down standards for lead in toys won't go into effect until Feb. 10, 2009, Mattel and its subsidiary Fisher-Price, RC2, A&A Global Industries, Cranium Inc., Eveready Battery Co., Marvel Entertainment, Toy Investments, Kids II, and Amscan, have agreed to adopt the new federal standards immediately. The companies have pledged not to sell any toys they know contain lead, and in addition will pay \$550,000 for lead testing and improved consumer notification.

Consumer advocacy groups file lawsuit challenging CPSC's phthalates ruling

Wall Street Journal - Dec 5

Two consumer advocacy groups filed a lawsuit challenging the Consumer Product Safety Commission's decision to allow makers of children's products containing phthalates to continue selling those goods as long as they were made before a congressional ban takes effect on Feb. 10. The two groups, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Public Citizen, say the congressionally mandated ban should apply retroactively to inventory made before Feb. 10. But the CPSC says it shouldn't.

Obama team to meet with advocates pushing for BPA ban

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - Dec 4

Health advocates pushing for a ban on bisphenol A have a meeting with President-elect Barack Obama's transition team, sending a strong message that the Obama administration will likely give environmental issues a higher priority than the Bush Administration. Chemical-makers have lobbied fiercely for years against any ban on the controversial chemical used to make baby bottles and thousands of other household products.

WebMD and FDA collaborate to keep consumers safer from dangerous food, medicine and cosmetics

FDA News - Dec 3

The U.S. FDA and WebMD announced a collaboration that is aiming to help consumers get information from the FDA to keep consumers safer from dangerous food, medicine and cosmetics. According to the press release, this new venture highlights the FDA's exploration of new technologies with the understanding that consumers get their information from a variety of different sources. WebMD's website will feature information released by the FDA such as the safety of FDA-regulated food, medicine and cosmetics. Registered WebMD users can also sign up for FDA public health alerts.

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