Client Advisory



Customs and International Trade

March 11, 2011

Consumer Product Safety Information Database Officially Launches; Have You Registered Your Company with the CPSC?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) launched its Consumer Product Safety Information Database today. This database is accessible through the CPSC-administered website at http://www.saferproducts.gov.

Section 6A of the Consumer Product Safety Act requires the CPSC to maintain a publicly available, searchable and Internet-accessible database listing reports of harm and risks of harm associated with consumer products. These reports can be filed by a wide range of individuals, including consumers, government agencies, health care professionals, child service providers and public safety entities. The CPSC has defined "consumers" to include not just the actual users, but also family members, relatives, parents, guardians, friends, attorneys, investigators, professional engineers, agents of a user of a consumer product and observers of the consumer products being used.

Once a report of harm is submitted by an individual, the CPSC has 5 business days to examine the report and determine whether it contains all the necessary information for publication. It will then transmit the report to the named manufacturer, importer or private labeler, and will publish the report no later than 10 days after transmittal. The manufacturer may submit comments responding to the report of harm at any time, and its comments will be published and viewable alongside the report. However, the CPSC is required to publish *every* eligible report within the 10-day window unless the manufacturer claims that the report contains confidential information (which would only cause the confidential portion to be redacted) or unless the CPSC determines that the report contains materially inaccurate information.

Any manufacturer or importer of consumer products is well-advised to register with the CPSC through its <u>Business Portal</u>. By registering, companies will be able to receive timely notices from the CPSC of reports of harm involving their products, so that they may make the most of the 10-day window to investigate the report. Companies should be vigilant about monitoring any reports of harm that may implicate their manufactured or imported products. *The CPSC cannot and will not verify whether the reports of harm it receives are accurate, complete or adequate, and it disclaims any such guarantees on its website*. It is up to the manufacturer to ensure that the reports published in the database are not inaccurate or misleading.

If you have any questions relating to the rollout of the Consumer Product Safety Information Database, or about the continued development of consumer product safety rules and regulations, please contact one of the Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP <u>Customs and International Trade</u> attorneys or professionals listed below.

Peter J. Battaglioli 202.625.3500 / peter.battaglioli@kattenlaw.com

Eric R. Rock 312.902.5228 / eric.rock@kattenlaw.com

Benjamin H. Shanbaum 312.902.5306 / benjamin.shanbaum@kattenlaw.com

Mark S. Zolno 312.902.5436 / mark.zolno@kattenlaw.com

www.kattenlaw.com

CHARLOTTE CHICAG

IRVING

LONDON

LOS ANGELES

NEW YORK

WASHINGTON, DC

Published as a source of information only. The material contained herein is not to be construed as legal advice or opinion.

©2011 Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP. All rights reserved.

Circular 230 Disclosure: Pursuant to regulations governing practice before the Internal Revenue Service, any tax advice contained herein is not intended or written to be used and cannot be used by a taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer. Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP is an Illinois limited liability partnership including professional corporations that has elected to be governed by the Illinois Uniform Partnership Act (1997). London affiliate: Katten Muchin Rosenman UK LLP.