

Lead Prevention Quarterly Newsletter

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Web sites to check out:

Tennessee
Department of
Health
<http://www2.state.tn.us/health/lead/>

The Orange
County Register
<http://www.ocregister.com/investigations/2004/lead/index.shtml>

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CPSC Announces New Policy - Lead in Children's Metal Jewelry

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced a new policy to reduce the potential for health risks from lead in children's metal jewelry. The new policy gives manufacturers, importers and retailers clear guidance on steps they should take to minimize the risk for children. The new policy explains how the CPSC staff will test for lead in children's jewelry and identifies the lead levels that will trigger further attention.

Pieces of metal jewelry with accessible lead greater than 175 micrograms could result in elevated blood lead levels in children. Staff will consider the age of the children who are most likely to wear the jewelry, the level of accessible lead, the size and shape of the jewelry components, the probable routes of exposure and other factors. Commission recommends that firms intending to sell children's jewelry in the United States keep lead levels as low as possible and test their own products following our guidelines to ensure that they contain no more than 600 ppm (parts per million) lead. "We do not want children's jewelry to have accessible lead that could cause elevated blood lead levels."

While deteriorating lead paint in homes is the leading cause of lead poisoning in children, lead exposures from other sources add to the overall risk. The scientific community generally recognizes a blood lead level of 10 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dl) of blood as a level of concern and recommends various lead poisoning prevention activities.

Below are two items that were recently recalled by CPSC:

-Hirschberg Schutz & Co. Inc., of Warren, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 2.8 million metal charms. The recalled metal charms contain high levels of lead, posing a serious risk of lead poisoning to young children. Please see March 2005 Recalls for more information.

-Zebco of Tulsa, Okla. is voluntarily recalling about 1.5 million fishing poles. The paint on the rods of these fishing poles contains lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects. Please see April 2005 Recalls for more information.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Toxic Treats

In April 2004, The Orange County Register of California printed a five day special investigation about lead in Mexican candy. The second web site on the left is a link to the investigation. The articles give in-depth details about how the candy is contaminated and what is being done about it. These types of candy can be purchased in any state, not just California. The web site provides information about the lead-tainted candy along with pictures.

