

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES, SOFTLINES

NO. 093/10 MAY 2010

US LEGISLATION FOR CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY

Since a report on toxic levels of cadmium in children's jewelry by the Associated Press in early 2010, a number of jurisdictions in the US have introduced legislation to restrict total or soluble cadmium in jewelry products for children. The definition of children, scope of restriction, method for the determination of cadmium and its specific limits vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

The restriction of cadmium in jewelry products, including children's jewelry, has opened new dimensions in the US. Since the beginning of 2010, there have been an increasing number of reports on jewelry products containing toxic levels of cadmium. In January 2010, the Associated Press reported that the most contaminated piece of children's jewelry was found to contain 91% cadmium¹. This suggested that, in response to the new federal law (CPSIA) banning lead in children's products, jewelry manufacturers may be substituting cadmium for lead.

Cadmium is a soft bluish-white metal and is known to be used to make jewelry products because it is inexpensive and malleable. Cadmium has other applications, including usage in pigments / coatings, metal alloys, electroplating, plastic stabilizers, solders and batteries. Long-term exposure can lead to bone softening and kidney failure. It is also a known carcinogen, and research suggests that it can, like lead, hinder brain development in young children.

On May 15, 2010, Minnesota became the first state in the US to specifically regulate soluble cadmium in children's jewelry². The scope of the new law is applicable to surface coatings or accessible substrate materials of metal or plastic components using the methods described in the ASTM F963 toy safety standard. Highlights are summarized in Table 1.

¹ [Cadmium found in trinkets from China](#),
² [Section 27 |Section 325E.389| Cadmium in Children's Jewelry, Chapter 347 – SF 2510, Regular Session, 2010](#),

Table 1

Jurisdiction	Bill	Scope	Requirement	Effective Date
Minnesota	SF 2510, (Chapter 347, 2010 Session),	Jewelry intended for children up to six years of age Surface coating or accessible substrate material of metal or plastic components	≤ 75 ppm soluble cadmium using ASTM F963	January 1, 2011 for Manufacturer or Wholesaler March 1, 2011 for Retailer

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission has asserted that it currently has the authority to implement rules on cadmium under the Federal Hazardous Safety Act (FHSA). The Commission is evaluating the existing data on toxicity of cadmium before issuing any guidelines or specific limits on cadmium in children's products including fashion jewelry. US Congress and several other states in the US have introduced bills that are focused on banning cadmium in children's jewelry. The respective legislatures in States of Illinois and Connecticut have already passed bills and are pending the signature of respective Governors. Highlights of these and other jurisdictions are summarized in Table 2.

SGS will follow up and inform about developments on regulations or policies in consumer products as a complementary service.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for cadmium and other restricted substances in jewelry and other consumer products for the US and worldwide

Table 2

Jurisdiction	Bill	Scope	Requirement	Proposed Effective Date
Connecticut	HB 5314 ³ (Public Act 10-113)	Jewelry for children under 12	≤ 75 ppm cadmium by weight	July 1, 2014
Illinois	HB 5040 ⁴	Jewelry products for children under 12 Paint or surface coating or accessible substrate	≤ 75 ppm soluble cadmium using ASTM F963	July 1, 2011
Federal	HR 4428 / S 2975 ⁵	Jewelry products for children under 12	Prohibited (antimony, cadmium and barium)	90 days after enactment date
California	SB 929 ⁶	Jewelry products for children	≤ 75 ppm cadmium by weight	Not specified
New Jersey	A 2259 / S 1636 ⁷	Products for children under 6	Prohibited (lead, mercury or cadmium)	First day of the seventh month following enactment date
New York	A 9561 / S 6446 ⁸	Jewelry for children up to 12	0.5 ppm leachable cadmium	Upon enactment
New York	A 9771 ⁹	Products for children under 12	≤ 40 ppm cadmium by weight	90 days since enactment date

³ [An act Banning Cadmium in Children's Jewelry, Public Act 10-113 \(HB 5314\), State of Connecticut,](#)

⁴ [Cadmium-Safe Kids Act, HB 5040, Illinois General Assembly,](#)

⁵ [Children's Toxic Metals Act, HR 4428, S 2975, http://thomas.loc.gov/](#)

⁶ [Children's Jewelry: Heavy Metals, SB 929,](#)

⁷ [Prohibits the Sale of Certain Children's Products Containing Lead, Mercury, or Cadmium, A 2295, New Jersey, 214th Legislature,](#)

⁸ [Directs the Commissioner of Health to Establish Standards for the Cadmium that Children's Jewelry may Contain, A 9561, New York State Assembly,](#)

⁹ [Prohibits the Use of Cadmium in Children's Products, A 9771, New York State Assembly,](#)



FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: gsc@sgs.com

HK– HingWo Tsang (HL) : +852 2774 7420 or Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com

HK– Ruth Hon (SL) +852 2774 7148 or Ruth.Hon@sgs.com

US– Sanjeev Gandhi (HL): +973-461-7924 or Sanjeev.Gandhi@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 mktg.hk@sgs.com

Australasia _ Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 au.cts@sgs.com

Europe – London —UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: + 90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com

www.sgs.com Global Competences Support Centre: gsc@sgs.com

If you wish to unsubscribe to this technical bulletin, go here: [Unsubscribe](#)

© 2010 SGS. All rights reserved. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3rd parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3rd parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

SGS