

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES, SOFTLINES, ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC

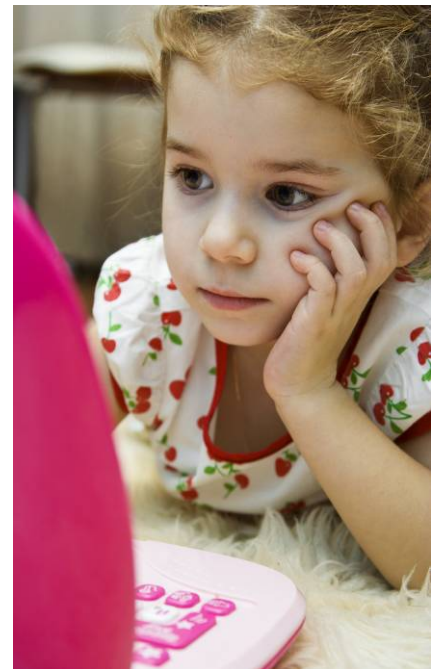
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## US CPSIA UPDATES: PART 8 CPSC APPROVES EXEMPTIONS FROM NEW LEAD TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted yes to exempt certain electronic components and products containing lead along with certain natural materials used in children's products from lead limits and testing requirements.

Since President George W. Bush signed landmark legislation Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA)<sup>1</sup> in August 2008, the CPSC has issued several guidelines for the implementation of the CPSIA provisions. On January 6, 2009, the Commission voted to approve staff recommendations providing practical implementation guidance for compliance with certain lead content requirement in children's products.

The commission decided to exempt certain natural materials, metals and alloys from the CPSIA lead limits based on its review of scientific information<sup>2</sup>. This exemption is applicable to materials that are untreated and unadulterated by the addition of materials or chemicals, including pigments, dyes, coatings, finishes or any other substance that could result in the addition of lead. CPSC also granted exemption for children's products including toys with lead containing parts a child cannot access and electronics components that are impossible to manufacture without the use of lead based materials.



<sup>1</sup>Safeguards 64/08 revised 'US President Signs Consumer Product Safety Law', September 2008. <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsia.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Children's Products Containing Lead; Proposed Determinations Regarding Lead Content Limits on Certain Materials or Products; Notice of Proposed Rulemaking' <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia09/brief/leadprocedures.pdf>

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Table 1. Materials under proposed-rulemaking for exemption for lead testing:

Substance	Category	Material
Lead Content	Metals and alloys	Surgical steel
	Natural fibers	Cotton, Silk, Wool, Hemp, Flax, Linen
	Natural minerals	Coral, Amber, Feathers, Fur, Untreated leather
	Precious gemstones	Diamond, Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald
	Precious metals	Gold (at least 10 K) Sterling silver (at least 925/1000) Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Osmium, Iridium, Ruthenium
	Pearls	Natural or cultured
	Semi-Precious gemstones	Minerals and other materials commonly used to make jewellery and other adornments provided such materials are not lead based
	Wood	Wood

The commission has also agreed to a process by which manufacturers and interested parties can seek either a determination that a certain material or product does not or would not exceed the lead content limits; or request an exemption for a material or product that contains lead in excess of the lead content limits, because it cannot be absorbed into the body nor will it have a harmful effect on users, as allowed in Section 101(b) (1) of CPSIA along with certain data and information to justify such request.



SGS is committed to inform as development of CPSIA occurs

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for lead, phthalates and other heavy metals in a comprehensive range of children's products and other consumer products for the US and worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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