

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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## CPSIA UPDATES 10: ADVISORY OPINION ON BOOKS AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

The CPSC published an advisory opinion on applicability of the Consumer Products Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) of 2008 for books and similar products. It provides further clarification regarding CPSIA requirements for ordinary books and books intended for children under 12 years. Books with inherent play value are applicable to the phthalates requirement .

Since the approval of CPSIA of 2008, the CPSC has published a series of advisories to address various implementation aspects of this law. These aspects included general certificates of conformity, inventory containing lead and phthalates, labelling requirements, exemption of certain materials and resellers of children's products<sup>1</sup> .

In December 2008, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published an advisory opinion to provide general guidance on their interpretation of the CPSIA to books and similar products<sup>2</sup>. Books intended for reading by the general public, including children, by definition are not intended or designed primarily for children. These products are published on cardboard or paper and are printed by conventional methods. Such products have no inherent play-value and are therefore not covered by the requirements of lead content, general conformity certification and third party

testing. However books specially designed and intended for use by children will need to meet the lead content requirements set in CPSIA. The CPSC advisory further elaborates the rationale for applicability of phthalates ban for books that have certain inherent play value.



<sup>1</sup>“Consumer Products Safety Act”, US Consumer Products Safety Commission; <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/cpsia.html> and references therein  
Safeguard 88/08 ‘US Consumer Product safety Improvement Act CPSC Publishes FAQ and Guidance on General Certificate of Conformity – Update: Part 1, November 2008  
Safeguard 97/08 ‘US Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act Updates : Part 2 CPSC published Final Rule for Certificates of Compliance’, November 2008  
Safeguard 99/08 ‘US CPSIA Updates: Part 3 ‘Compliance Requirements for Inventory Containing Lead and Phthalates’, December 2008  
Safeguard 100/08 ‘US CPSIA Update Part 4: Final rule on Labelling Requirements for Toy and Game Advertisements’, December 2008  
Safeguard 102/08 ‘CPSIA Updates Part 5: ‘Certification of Conformity Applied to all Garments under CPSIA’, December 2008  
Safeguard 010/09 ‘US CPSIA Updates: Part 8 ‘CPSC Proposed Exemptions to Lead Testing and Certification’, January 2009  
Safeguard 013/09 ‘CPSIA Updates 9 ‘Guidance for Sellers of Used Children Products’, January 2009  
<sup>2</sup>. General Counsel Advisory Opinion: Books and the CPSIA, December 23, 2008, <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/advisory/323.pdf>

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Highlights of the advisory opinion on lead and phthalates on books are summarised in the table below.

Books however that are intended for children under 12 years or that have inherent play value will be required to have a general certificate of Conformity on and after February 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 and be certified based on third party testing as required by August 2009.

Book Product / Description	Substance	Requirement
Books intended or designed primarily for children (ordinary and play value items where printing ink becomes part of substrate of book) <sup>1</sup>	Lead Content	≤ 600 ppm (Feb 10, 2009) ≤ 300 ppm (Aug 14, 2009) ≤ 100 ppm (Aug 14, 2011) <sup>2</sup>
Books <sup>1</sup> intended or designed primarily for children that have some inherent play value (eg used in bath tub or can be cut into paper dolls) <sup>1</sup>	Lead Content	≤ 600 ppm (Feb 10, 2009) ≤ 300 ppm (Aug 14, 2009) ≤ 100 ppm (Aug 14, 2011) <sup>2</sup>
	Phthalates	≤ 0.1 % DEHP, DBP or BBP ≤ 0.1 % DIDP, DINP or DNOP (if can be placed in the mouth)
Toy <sup>1</sup> (sold together with an ordinary book)	Lead Content	≤ 600 ppm (Feb 10, 2009) ≤ 300 ppm (Aug 14, 2009) ≤ 100 ppm (Aug 14, 2011) <sup>2</sup>
	Phthalates	≤ 0.1 % DEHP, DBP or BBP ≤ 0.1 % DIDP, DINP or DNOP (if can be placed in the mouth)

<sup>1</sup> Lead in surface paint requirement may also apply if item contains such a component.

<sup>2</sup> If technologically feasible



The above equally applies to educational magazines, posters, bookmarks, and other such products that are printed on cardboard or paper and have no play value.

SGS is committed to inform as development on CPSIA and other legislations occur.

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 restricted substances 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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