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CPSIA UPDATES: 25 CPSC DENIES EXCLUSION FOR CRYSTAL AND GLASS BEADS

On July, 17th 2009, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted 2-1 to deny the Fashion Jewellery Trade Association's (FJTA) request to exclude crystal and glass beads including rhinestones and cubic zirconium in children's products from lead content rule under the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) of 2008.¹

In considering the FJTA petition, the CPSC staff's analysis showed that mouthing and swallowing of small objects is part of the normal behavior of infants and young children. While acknowledging that the majority of crystal and glass beads do not appear to pose a serious health risk to children, the staff disagreed with the FJTA's assertion that the "lead exposure from crystal beads would always be lower than exposure from metal jewellery containing less than 300 ppm lead." In denying the exclusion of crystal and glass beads used on products such as jewellery, apparel, accessories, footwear and other decorative items, the Commission also cited data collected through the CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) that points to jewellery as one of the top five products ingested by children.

In addition to denying the request from exclusion, the Commission directs the staff to focus its enforcement activities on children's jewellery, children's clothing and other products containing lead crystal and bead products designed and primarily for children up to the age of six; the population most at risk of mouthing and swallowing small objects. The Commission also advised manufacturers and sellers of crystal and glass beads its intent to focus enforcement on non-complying lead products that pose significant health risks to children.

Highlights on lead content requirements for crystals and glass beads in children's products under CPSIA are summarized in Table 1.



¹ Request from the Fashion Jewelry Trade Association ("FJTA"), et al. for Exclusion from Lead Content Limits under Section 101 (b) 91) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act ("CPSIA"), US CPSC, 17 July 2009, [MORE](#)

Table 1

Substance	Scope	Requirement	Effective Date
Lead (substrate)	Children's products including crystal and glass components (accessible)	≤ 600 ppm	10 February 2009
		≤ 300 ppm	14 August 2009
		≤ 100 ppm (if technologically feasible)	14 August 2011

SGS will follow up and inform interested parties as development on CPSIA and other legislation 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 check our list of [CPSIA accredited laboratories](#) and visit our [CPSIA webpage](#).



FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: gqsc@sgs.com
 HingWo Tsang +852 2774 7420 Hingwo.tsang@sgs.com
 Sanjeev Gandhi +973-461-7924 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: +90 212 225 0024 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

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