

SAFE GUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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CALIFORNIA REGULATES TOTAL CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law¹ a bill that will limit cadmium in jewelry for children up to the age of 6. The law prohibits manufacturing, shipping or selling jewelry that contains more than 0.03 percent cadmium by weight starting in 2012.

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% cadmium². 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.

Three other states — Connecticut, Illinois and Minnesota — have already passed laws this year limiting cadmium in jewelry³, and bills are pending in Congress⁴. Due to the size and historic precedents of California laws — lead in jewelry, phthalates in children's toys and childcare articles, the cadmium limit in children's jewelry may effectively set the national standard. Highlights of the ban on cadmium for California, Connecticut, Illinois and Minnesota are summarized in Table 1.



¹ [Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed 102 bills and vetoed 37 bills, Legislative Update, Press Release, 07/27/2010, Office of the Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, The People's Governor](#), and references therein

² [SafeGuards 013/10 "Unexpected levels of cadmium found in children's jewelry"](#)

³ [SafeGuards 139/10 US Illinois bans Soluble Cadmium in Children's Jewellery](#)

⁴ [SafeGuards 093/10 US Legislation for Cadmium in Children's Jewelry](#)

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| State | Act / Regulation (Bill) | Scope | Requirement | Effective Date |
|-------------|--|--|---|--|
| California | Chapter 313 (SB 929, Statutes of 2010) | Jewelry for children up to the age of 6 | ≤ 300 ppm total cadmium using EPA 3050B, 3051A and 3052 (≤ 0.03%) | January 1, 2012 |
| Connecticut | Public Act 10-113 (Substituted House Bill 5314, Session 2010) | Jewelry for children up to the age of 12 | ≤ 75 ppm total cadmium (≤ 0.0075%) | July 1, 2014 |
| Illinois | Public Act 96-1379 'Cadmium-Safe Kids Act' (HB 5040, Session 2010) | Jewelry for children under the age of 12:- Paint or surface coating or accessible substrate | ≤ 75 ppm soluble cadmium using ASTM F963 | Products manufactured after July 1, 2011 |
| Minnesota | Chapter 347 (SF 2510, 2010 session) | Jewelry for children up to the age of 6: 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 (CPSC) is evaluating the existing data on toxicity of cadmium before issuing any guidelines or specific exposure limits on cadmium in children's products including fashion jewelry. The Commission has asserted that it currently has the authority to implement rules on cadmium under the Federal Hazardous Safety Act (FHSA). A number of recalls have taken place in 2010 under FHSA authority that prohibits makers of children's products from using chemicals or metals in amounts that the CPSC considers "hazardous."

SGS will follow up and inform about developments on regulations relating to 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 requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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