

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

FOOD

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US - COMPLIANCE WITH LEAD STANDARDS IN CANDY

On 22 August 2012 the California Department of Public Health announced that a candy was found to have an excessive amount of lead in it¹. This unfortunately is not a single case of a random product failing to comply with the lead standard in California and the United States. The California Department of Public Health has been issuing lead in candy health alerts for years and posting them on their website². Under the Food Modernization and Safety Act the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) is now obligated to review all State recalls and determine if a national recall is warranted.

In December 2005 the US FDA changed the lead in candy likely to be consumed by small children requirement from ≤ 0.5 ppm to ≤ 0.1 ppm³. California has codified that lead in candy excessive of natural amounts is considered adulterated. The regulation and code in California further states that until this lead level has been determined by regulation, then this level of lead will be determined by the Attorney General of California. The Attorney General of California can establish this level of lead based on scientific consensus or can use a level that has been set forth in a consent agreement⁴. In 2004 some candy companies agreed to a settlement (consent agreement) under Proposition 65 that established a requirement in California for all candies to ≤ 0.1 ppm of lead⁵.



¹ [Red Vines black licorice candy recalled for toxic lead content](#)

² [California Health Alerts - Lead in Candy](#)

³ [Lead in Candy Likely To Be Consumed by Small Children](#)

⁴ [The California Department of Public Health-Lead in Candy](#)

⁵ http://ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/cms06/06-062_0a.pdf

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This California regulation, code and settlement created a printed food contact candy packaging lead requirement of ≤ 20 ppm. This requirement does not apply to other food contact materials that have a lower lead standard such as ceramic packaging.

SGS can test for lead in candy, lead in ingredients used for candy and lead in printed wrappers in laboratories around the globe. Lead testing can be performed at SGS by using traditional atomic absorption (AA) equipment or the more advanced inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) equipment.

SGS is committed to keeping you informed of regulatory news and developments. Leveraging our global network of laboratories and food experts, SGS provides a comprehensive range of food safety and quality solutions including analytical testing, audits, certifications, inspections and technical support. We continually invest in our world class testing capabilities and state-of-the-art technology to help you reduce risks, and improve food safety and quality. For further information please visit our website www.foodsafety.sgs.com.



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