The Canadian Government recently announced that they have set a total lead limit of 90 mg/kg for consumer products that are brought into contact with the mouth and for toys intended for children under 3 years. The regulation takes effect on November 26, 2010.

On December 8, 2010, the Canadian Government published changes to the Hazardous Products Act by amending the Consumer Products Containing Lead (Contact with Mouth) Regulations. The Regulation sets a total lead limit of 90 mg/kg (ppm) on the following categories of consumer products (also referred to Group 1 in Health Canada’s Lead Risk Reduction Strategy for Consumer Products):

- Products, other than kitchen utensils, that are brought into contact with the user’s mouth in the course of normal use; and
- Products intended for use in play or learning by children under the age of three years.

Examples of such products include:

- toys labeled by the manufacturer as being suitable for children less than three years of age, or which by their nature are likely to be used by a child less than three years of age
- mouthpieces used in sports equipment, such as snorkels and breath deflectors
- mouthpieces of musical instruments
- pacifiers, teethers, rattles, baby bottle nipples, baby bibs, and crib toys
- plastic beverage straws
- children’s crayons, modelling clays, and paints
The regulation takes effect on the date of registration; November 26, 2010. Highlights of the amendments are summarized in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBSTANCE</th>
<th>SCOPE (ACCESSIBLE MATERIAL)</th>
<th>LIMIT (MG/KG)</th>
<th>EFFECTIVE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>Products, other than kitchen utensils, that are brought into contact with the user’s mouth in the course of normal use</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>November 26, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Products intended for use in play or learning by children under the age of three years.</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

**EXEMPTION**

- Jewellery under item 42 of Part 1 of Schedule I to the hazardous Products Act
- Products under the Glazed Ceramics and Glassware Regulations

An accessible part may contain more than 90 mg/kg lead if all the following are met:

- lead is necessary for essential characteristics of the part
- alternatives are not available and
- the migration of lead of the part is not more than 90 mg/kg (EN 71-3:1994/A1:2000/AC:2002)

SGS will follow-up and inform about developments on regulations or policies in 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 lead and other restricted substances in consumer products for the Canadian and other international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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**FOR ENQUIRIES:**

Global Competences Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com
CN– Geng Lu Tel: +86-21-61402666 or Geng.Lu@sgs.com
HK– Ruth Han Tel: +852 2374 7148 or Ruth.Han@sgs.com
Asia – Hong Kong Tel: +852 3900 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 3008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 20 3008 7870 gb.cts.sales@sgs.com
Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 sgs.turkey@sgs.com
Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 uscts.inquiries@sgs.com
www.sgs.com/cts Global Competences Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com

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