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Reformulation Requirements for Lead and Phthalates in Consumer Products under California Proposition 65

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, generally known as Proposition (Prop) 65, is a public ballot passed with the overwhelming support of California residents in 1986. The numerous lawsuits that followed its enactment resulted in the reduction of carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) chemicals through significant reformulation of consumer products containing such chemicals.



Over the years, Prop 65 has led to consent agreements for a variety of consumer products, such as bibs, bicycles, products containing brass, cookware, cosmetics, exercise mats, ceramic ware and glassware, clothing, fake leather upholstery, headphone cables, jewelry, lunchboxes, poker chips, luggage, accessories and similar products.

In early 2011, a number of new Prop 65 consent agreements were reported, covering vinyl inflatable structures, vinyl lounge chairs, inspection lights with clamp handles, brass door handles, cadmium in jewelry and a revised judgment for fashion accessories.

In the latter part of 2011, further consent agreements were reported. These included reformulation of up to 1000 ppm DEHP for book covers and jackets. Further reformulations for lead content also concluded. For fashion jackets and belts with components that can be handled, touched or mouthed, two tests are necessary for compliance: less than 1.0 µg lead using method NIOSH 9100 and less than 100 ppm lead using EPA 3050B. For car stereo audio cables, cookware and cookware accessories made of brass, up to 300 ppm lead is allowed. For FM scan radios, up to 50 ppm lead and for vinyl journals and similar products, up to 300 ppm lead using EPA 3050B.

About SGS Consumer Testing Services

SGS provides a range of testing and certification services throughout its global network of laboratories, which include analytical testing and consultancy services for lead, phthalates and other restricted substances in consumer products, both for compliance with California Prop 65 and other international regulations. Additional services include EMC, field labeling, REACH, RoHS/ RoHS Recast hazardous substances, pre-compliance, full compliance, training, medical equipment, supply chain security, factory assessment and sustainability.

Please contact SGS for further information.

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