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# ❖SPC&B Safety News❖

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A Newsletter for Clients of Sharretts, Paley, Carter & Blauvelt, P.C.

June 4, 2010

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## *Handbag Retailers and Wholesalers Settle California Proposition 65 Suit*



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The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) announced that it reached a settlement agreement with over 40 retailers and wholesalers of women's handbags, wallets and other accessories, on the lead content levels for such products being sold in the state of California, **to all persons, not just children**. As is typical with these agreements, the companies agreed to pay penalties to the state and to CEH (ranging from \$32,500 to \$58,000 per company) for failure to use warning labels regarding the presence of lead as required by Proposition 65.

The companies also agreed to the following lead limits for accessible components of **handbags, wallets, and similar accessories, as well as footwear and belts, for goods sold or offered for sale in California on and after December 1, 2010**:

- No more than 90 ppm of lead in paint or other surface coatings
- No more than 600 ppm of lead in leather (to be reduced to 300 ppm by December 1, 2011)
- No more than 300 ppm of lead in vinyl (to be reduced to 200 ppm by December 1, 2011)
- No more than 300 ppm of lead in any other materials (except crystals)

Companies that were not part of the settlement agreement are encouraged to follow these lead limits for their own handbags and accessories, if they do not wish to use warning labels advising of the potential health threat.

If your company is selling handbags, accessories, footwear and/or belts in the state of California, we can be of assistance in determining how this development affects your business. For further information, please contact Gail T. Cumins, Donna L. Shira, or Allison M. Baron at 212-425-0055, or by email at [gcumins@spcblaw.com](mailto:gcumins@spcblaw.com), [dshira@spcblaw.com](mailto:dshira@spcblaw.com), or [abaron@spcblaw.com](mailto:abaron@spcblaw.com), respectively.

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