
❖SPC&B Safety News❖

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

May 25, 2011

EU Extends Cadmium Ban to Metal Jewelry and to All Plastic Products



Effective for goods sold in the European Union (EU) on and after December 10, 2011, metal jewelry, metal parts of jewelry, and all plastic products and mixtures cannot contain cadmium in concentrations equal to or greater than 0.01% by weight.

Since 1992, cadmium has been prohibited in a number of polymers and paints, as a stabilizer in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in a number of applications, as well as in cadmium plating in a number of applications. Starting in 2001, the European PVC industry has voluntarily refrained from using cadmium as a stabilizer in newly produced PVC for all applications, regardless of whether they were regulated by the EU. The recent announcement by the EU officially extends the prohibition of the use of cadmium to all articles made from PVC “in order to comply with the objective of combating cadmium pollution.”

In addition, the EU has determined that jewelry containing cadmium poses a danger to consumers, including children, who may be exposed to the element through skin contact or licking. Accordingly, the ban now covers metal beads and other metal components for jewelry making, and metal parts of jewelry and imitation jewelry articles and hair accessories, including:

- Bracelets, necklaces and rings
- Piercing jewelry
- Wrist-watches and wrist-wear
- Brooches and cufflinks

If you would like more information about consumer product safety restrictions in Europe or elsewhere, please contact Gail Cumins at gcumins@spcblaw.com, Donna Shira at dshira@spcblaw.com, or Alli Baron at abaron@spcblaw.com, or call us at 212-425-0055, for further information.

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