

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES, ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC

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## CPSIA UPDATES: 31 FINAL RULE ON LEAD EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently issued a final rule concerning certain electronic devices for which it is not technologically feasible to meet the lead limits as required under section 101 of the Consumer Product Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). The list of exempted materials is essentially identical to the interim final rule dated February 2009

In February 2009, the Commission issued an interim final rule providing exemptions for certain electronic devices<sup>1</sup>. On 12 January, 2010, the CPSC published the final rule on exemptions for certain accessible lead-containing component parts due to technological infeasibility, provided that the use of lead is necessary for the proper electronic functioning of the component part and it is not technologically feasible for the component part to meet the lead content limits<sup>2</sup>. The final rule is essentially identical to the interim rule. The exemption will be reviewed every five years after publication in the Federal Register on children's electronic devices.



Highlights of exemptions are summarized below.

1. Inaccessible components [evaluated by applicability of probes (16 CFR 1500.48 and 1500.49), before and after use and abuse tests (1500.51 (c) and 1500.52(c))].

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<sup>1</sup>Children's Products Containing Lead, Exemptions for Certain Electronic Devices; Interim Final Rule, 16 CFR Part 1500, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Vol 74, No. 28, Federal Register, February 12, 2009.

CPSIA Updates 18: Interim Final Rule on Lead Exemption in Certain Electronic Devices, Safeguards, SGS Consumer Testing Services, No 44/09, February 2009.

<sup>2</sup>Children's Products Containing Lead, Exemptions for Certain Electronic Devices; Final Rule, 16 CFR Part 1500, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Vol 75, No. 12, Federal Register, January 20, 2010.

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2. Lead blended into the glass of cathode ray tubes, electronic components, and fluorescent tubes.
3. Lead used as an alloying element in steel. The maximum amount of lead shall be less than 0.35% by weight (3,500 ppm).
4. Lead used in the manufacture of aluminum. The maximum amount of lead shall be less than 0.4% by weight (4,000 ppm).
5. Lead used in copper-based alloys. The maximum amount of lead shall be less than 4% by weight (40,000 ppm).
6. Lead used in lead-bronze bearing shells and bushings.
7. Lead used in compliant pin connector systems.
8. Lead used in optical and filter glass
9. Lead oxide in plasma display panels (PDP) and surface conduction electron emitter displays (SED) used in structural elements; notably in the front and rear glass dielectric layer, the bus electrode, the black stripe, the address electrode, the barrier ribs, the seal frit and frit ring, as well as in print pastes.
10. Lead oxide in the glass envelope of Black Light Blue (BLB) lamps.
11. Components of electronic devices that are removable or replaceable, such as battery packs and light bulbs that are inaccessible when the product is assembled in functional form or are otherwise granted an exemption.



SGS will follow up and inform interested parties as developments on CPSIA and other legislation occur.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for toys and children's products for the US and international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

#### FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: [gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)  
 HingWo Tsang +852 2774 7420 or [Hingwo.tsang@sgs.com](mailto:Hingwo.tsang@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 [mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)  
 Australasia \_ Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 [au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)  
 Europe – London —UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 [gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto: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](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)  
 Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 [Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com](mailto:Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com)

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