



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

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Nancy Nord, Acting Chairman

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SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Honorable Nancy A. Nord, Acting Chairman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection
September 19, 2007

- Eliminating children's exposure to lead in consumer products has consistently been among the highest priorities of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) since its inception in 1973.
- The CPSC banned lead paint on toys and children's furniture in 1978 and has vigorously enforced that ban ever since, including through the toy recalls announced this summer.
- Currently, the Commission is working on a rulemaking to ban lead in children's metal jewelry.
- The CPSC was last reauthorized in 1990. Acting Chairman Nord has sent legislative proposals to Congress that would modernize CPSC's statutory authorities and strengthen the agency's ability to improve the safety of both imports and domestically produced consumer products.
- At last week's U.S.-Sino Product Safety Summit, the CPSC reached an agreement with its Chinese counterpart agency under which China will immediately implement a plan to eliminate the use of lead paint on Chinese manufactured toys exported to the United States.
- China also agreed to broad cooperation with the CPSC in four major product categories including fireworks, lighters, and electrical products, as well as toys.
- The CPSC has been educating Chinese manufacturers and exporters not only of the content of U.S. product safety standards, but also the importance of adhering to those standards, including voluntary or consensus standards.
- The CPSC is engaging in increased surveillance and enforcement activities and recently began participating in the Automated Commercial Environment of Customs and Border Protection to identify shipments of non-compliant products before they arrive at U.S. ports.

