

Memorandum

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TO : Scott Wolfson, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Information and Public Affairs

THROUGH: John Gibson Mullan, Assistant Executive Director, Office of Compliance

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FROM : Dollie N. Hayes, Compliance Officer, CRC

SUBJECT: FY2005 Recalls and Corrective Actions Announced for Toys and Other Children's

Products

The Office of Compliance during fiscal year 2005 announced 109 recalls and corrective actions that involved toys, a variety of children's products and bicycles, bicycle components or accessories. A summary of these recalls and corrective actions is presented at Part I and Part II.

Part I includes a total of 32 recall actions for products that violated mandatory safety regulations. The breakdown of the recall actions is: 1 involving toddler cups containing petroleum distillates; 1 involving cribs; 8 involving products that contained high levels of lead in paint; 1 involving toy metal jewelry items that contained dangerous levels of lead; 5 involving pacifiers; 1 involving rattles; 1 involving children's sleepwear; and 13 involving toys.

Part II includes a total of 77 recalls or corrective actions for toys, children's products, and bicycles that present hazards not addressed by mandatory safety standards. These include 8 involving children's chairs; 5 involving toy jewelry; 10 involving miscellaneous items; 4 involving toddler beds and cribs; 3 involving strollers; 2 involving playground and recreational equipment; 11 involving children's garments; 6 involving toys; 2 involving ride-on-toys; 2 involving swings and doorway jumpers; 1 involving baby walkers; 4 involving toy chests; 2 involving teethers and rattles; 1 involving carriers; and 16 involving bicycles, bicycle components or accessories.

FY 2005 Recalls

F I 2005 Recalls			
	Section 15 Recalls *	Regulated Product	# Units Recalled
		Recalls	
# of Recalls Announced	77	32	
Toys and Other Children's Products			
# Units Distributed and Subject to Recall	15,111,210	4,382,490	19,493,700
Bicycles or Components/Accessories			
# Units Distributed and Subject to Recall	141,927		141,927
Units Subject to Recall	15,253,137	4,382,490	19,635,627

* Section 15 recalls include only consumer level recalls for which there was an announcement.

PART I

REGULATED PRODUCTS RECALL SUMMARY

There were a total of 32 voluntary recalls or other corrective actions for products subject to the Commission's safety standards.

Chemicals (1)

A container inside a toddler cup holds petroleum distillates, which can leak onto the outside of the cup and could come into contact with the user posing a poisoning hazard to children. A total of **720** units distributed were recalled.

Cribs (1)

A gap between the side rail and the crib mattress support on one crib poses an entrapment hazard to infants. All other crib models in this recall do not have proper assembly instructions and diagrams required for cribs. Improperly assembled cribs and missing cautionary and warning labels could create entrapment hazards to infants. The cribs failed to meet federal standards designed to protect children against entrapment and strangulation. A total of **8,783** units distributed were recalled.

Bicycle Helmets (1)

The helmets failed impact testing required under the federal standard for bicycle helmets. A total of **494.287** units distributed were recalled.

Lead-in-Paint (8)

Products recalled because of paint that contained amounts of lead above the limit in federal regulations for children's products include a children's karaoke player, toy airplanes, children's fishing rods, buttons on a denim jumper set, children's furniture, children's sunglasses, and a floor game. A total of **2,346,503** units distributed were recalled.

Other Regulated Chemical Hazard (1)

Children's metal jewelry items sold in various styles and colors of necklace and earring sets contain hazardous levels of lead and if ingested by young children can cause adverse health effects. A total of **455,000** units distributed were recalled.

Pacifiers (5)

The pacifiers are banned under federal law. The pacifiers failed federal safety tests, came apart, and had small parts that can pose a choking hazard to infants and small children. A total of **345**, **500** units distributed were recalled.

Rattles (1)

The recalled rattle is banned under federal law. It failed federal safety tests for rattles, came apart, releasing small balls inside, and can pose a choking hazard to young children. A total of **3,000** units distributed were recalled.

Children's Sleepwear Garments (1)

Bathrobes failed to meet federal flammability standards for children's sleepwear posing a risk of serious burn injuries to children. The standard requires sleepwear, including loungewear, to be flame resistant and if the garment ignites, the flame must self-extinguish. A total of **2,700** units distributed were recalled.

Toys (13)

Twelve recalls involved toys that failed to meet the federal standard for small parts in toys intended for children under three years of age. The toys present choking or aspiration hazards to young children. One recall involved dive sticks that failed to meet the federal standard for dive sticks. A total of **725,997** units distributed were recalled.

PART II

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FEDERAL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACT

Children's Chairs (8)

Folding Chairs – locking mechanism can fail, allowing the chair to collapse or fold unexpectedly. Children's fingers can get caught or entrapped in the hinge and slot areas, posing a pinch or cut hazard that can lead to possible lacerations and finger tip amputations (**4 recalls**).

Folding Chairs – hinge and slot areas of the chairs can catch or entrap fingers posing a pinch or cut hazard (1 recall).

Director's Chairs – wooden parts can break, allowing the occupant to fall to the ground and possibly sustain injuries (1 recall).

Children's Multi-Colored Chairs – red plastic feet can detach from chair legs, posing a choking hazard (1 recall).

Children's Chairs- seat detaches from chair leg base, possibly causing a child to fall to the floor (1 recall).

At least 5,353,779 units distributed were recalled.

Children's Jewelry (5)

Necklaces, bracelets, charms, pendants, bracelet key rings – jewelry contains high levels of lead and some jewelry may contain a sharp point

At least 3,187,100 units distributed were recalled.

Miscellaneous Items (10)

Water bottles – pull-up drinking spout can detach, posing a choking hazard
Plate sets with plastic fork and spoon – fork prongs can break posing a choking hazard
Hammocks – shoulder strap support can detach from hammock, posing a fall hazard
Crayon activity ball/sets – small crayon balls can break loose from base and pose a choking hazard
Sandals – flower attached to sandals can pull or snap off posing a choking hazard
Arm bands (inflatable) – seams can tear causing bands to deflate, posing a drowning hazard
Bottle sipper pull-up bottle caps – pull-up valve can detach from the cap, posing a choking hazard
Bath seats – bath seats can break, tip-over and a child can fall into the water when bath seats are used with certain non-traditional or sunken bathtubs

Water watches – contain petroleum distillates that could be harmful if ingested, skin or eye irritant Blankets – decorative stitching on the blanket's edge can come loose posing a strangulation hazard

At least 1,594,157 units distributed were recalled.

Toddler Beds/Cribs (4)

Cribs – slats and spindles can separate from headboard posing an entrapment risk.

Cribs - white paint on cribs can chip posing a choking hazard.

Cribs – spindles on front rail can loosen and detach posing an entrapment or fall hazard.

Toddler beds – entrapment of arms, leg or foot between slats in guard rails or footboard causing. broken bones, sprains and other injuries.

At least 1,218,175 units distributed were recalled.

Strollers (3)

Infant strollers – latching mechanism can fail and collapse unexpectedly during use resulting in injuries to the occupant and consumers pushing stroller

Infant strollers - handle bar can crack or break causing the handlebar to detach Jogging strollers - stroller handle can disconnect from stroller frame during use

At least 1,145,549 units distributed were recalled.

Playground/Recreational Equipment Items (2)

Swing seats – manufacture defect can cause the metal grommet securing seat to break, posing a fall hazard

Trampolines and enclosures – welds on trampoline frame can break during use and mounting, brackets on enclosures have sharp edges

At least 1,368,000 units distributed were recalled.

Children's Garments (11)

Pajama sets – heat sealed patches on garment can detach posing a choking hazard.

Corduroy overalls – buttons can detach posing a choking hazard.

Snow suits and jackets – decorative compasses and corded zipper pull tags can come off posing a choking hazard.

Hooded sweaters – drawstrings pose a strangulation hazard.

Faux fur sweaters – furry trim is dangerously flammable.

Parkas, snow suits, bibs – rubber zipper pull tabs can be bitten off posing a choking hazard.

Zipper sweaters – zipper pull mechanism can detach from the zipper posing a choking hazard.

Windwear, fleece jackets, pant sets – zipper pull and slider on the jackets can detach posing a choking hazard.

Infant and Children's Overalls – the plastic center of decorative snaps can detach posing a choking hazard.

Bodysuits – the appliqué can detach posing a choking hazard.

Denim and knit jackets – metal buttons can come loose and detach posing a choking hazard.

At least 564,938 units distributed were recalled.

Toys (6)

Flying saucer toy - overheats while charging, meltdown of plastic motor cover, risk of burns.

Pogo sticks – internal metal pin can wear down, causing sticks to remain stuck in down position and releases unexpectedly, posing a risk of fall impact injuries.

Push toys – chin, jaw, and teeth can get lodged in opening at the top of push toy's round-shaped handle.

Soft gyms – cap on wire supports inside gym's upright arms can detach, allowing the wire to poke through the fabric presenting a laceration hazard

Plush toys – stuffing in toy may contain sewing needle tips, puncture hazard.

Walker wagons – tips of clickers can break off, posing a choking or aspiration hazard.

At least 281,755 units distributed were recalled.

Ride-On-Toys (2)

Scooters/mini bikes – over-inflated tires lead to breakage of plastic rim inside wheels causing tires to rupture: risk of facial and hand injuries while inflating the tire.

Scooters – wheels can break or become damaged causing users to fall and suffer injuries.

At least 331,000 units distributed were recalled.

Swings/Doorway Jumpers (2)

Swings – straps on swings could break, causing a fall hazard to child.

Doorway Jumpers – plastic clamp that attaches jumper seat to door frame can break causing a fall hazard.

At least 38,600 units distributed were recalled.

Baby Walkers (1)

The walkers fit through a standard doorway, are not designed to stop at the edge of a step, and can tipover resulting in serious injuries or death to babies using the walker.

At least 12,000 units distributed were recalled.

Toy Chests (4)

Toy Chests – lid supports fail to prevent the lid from falling, posing risks of strangulation, entrapment, suffocation, and impact injuries to a child's head, fingers or hands.

At least 10,780 units distributed were recalled.

Teether/Rattles (2)

Water teethers – when plastic spinner inside teether breaks, beads can fall out and pose a choking hazard. Teether/rattles – beads and farm animals on metal bar can roll off crossbar when the soldered joints break, beads pose an aspiration hazard and ragged edges on the ring pose a laceration hazard.

At least **5,200** units distributed were recalled.

Carrier (1)

Infant carriers/slings – stitching that attaches webbing to carrier/sling can break, posing a fall hazard.

At least 177 units distributed were recalled.

Bicycles or Components/Accessories (16)

Brakes – front brakes mounting tabs can break, causing brakes to fail and the loss of control of bicycle (1 recall).

Forks – steering tube on the bicycle fork can crack or break; suspension fork when fully compressed may contact the front tire; and, fork that holds the front wheel can separate at the weld – causing bicyclists to lose control, fall, and suffer injuries (3 recalls).

Handlebars – handlebar mounted quick-release bags can fall off bicycle, handlebar stems can crack or break, and, aero bars, an extension of handlebars, can crack or break – causing bicyclists to lose control, fall, crash, and suffer injuries (**3 recalls**).

Trailers – misassembled hitch mechanisms and improperly installed assembly hardware can lead to trailers becoming unstable when changing directions posing a risk of injury to riders; and the universal hitch may come loose and separate from the lead bicycle, which could lead to a serious injury or death to the rider (2 recalls).

Bicycle seats – a plastic scuff guard underneath the front seat that secures the seat rails may crack or break causing the bicyclist to lose control and/or fall, resulting in serious injury (1 recall).

Seat posts – suspension seat posts improperly installed could crack in the seat post, causing the rider to fall and crash (1 recall).

Frames – frames on bicycles can crack and fail during use, posing a risk of injury to bicyclists (**1 recall**). Wheels – rear wheel freehub mechanism can malfunction causing no resistance when pedaling; rear axle is harder than required by manufacturer's specifications, could crack and require rear wheel replacement; hub in rear wheel can fail to engage properly; and, tire can separate from the wheel resulting in a flat tire – riders could lose balance, fall and suffer injuries (**4 recalls**).

At least 141,927 units distributed were recalled.