



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

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NANCY NORD
ACTING CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER

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Welcome Everyone



View Chairman's
Welcome

I'm Nancy Nord, Acting Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and I want to welcome you to the first edition of our electronic newsletter, *The Safety Review*.

We hope you find this newsletter to be a valuable resource for you, your family, and friends. Our goal is to provide you with product safety tips, recall information and other safety news. Our newsletter will be sent every month, so you'll have the latest and most important information.

In my effort to reach out directly to consumers at events throughout the country, I have the great opportunity to talk directly with people just like you. One message I hear over and over again: you want information that's **relevant** and **easy to access**.

We believe this electronic newsletter, together with our Web site, will give you what you need, and we look forward to receiving your ideas and suggestions about how to make this newsletter even more useful for you.

Thanks for taking time to read and use this information. Product Safety is everyone's goal.

Have a question or comment about the newsletter?
E-mail us at feedback@cpsc.gov



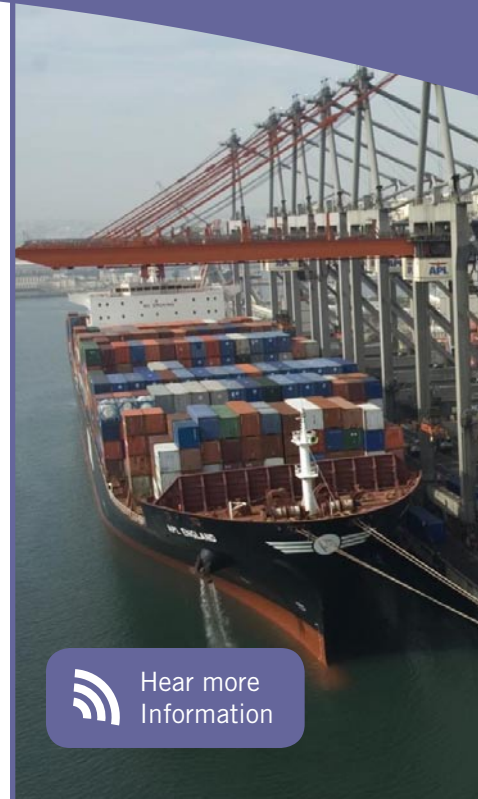
import SURVEILLANCE

The products you buy for your home and family – they might be made in the United States, but more than ever, they probably aren't. Imported consumer goods are coming into the U.S. at an unprecedented level (\$639 billion in value in 2007), and America's families need to be better protected against possibly dangerous or hazardous goods from foreign manufacturers. To address this need, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has established a new Import Surveillance Division within the Office of Compliance and Field Operations.

Every DAY, more than 70,000 truck, rail and sea containers are processed at more than 300 ports of entry¹.

For the first time, the agency will have full-time staff physically located at the busiest ports to:

- **Protect** Investigators are identifying and screening foreign-made products to ensure they meet safety standards and regulations. Staff uses the latest detection and testing equipment to quickly screen products for testing.
- **Inspect** CPSC looks at not only the goods coming into the country, but also inspects the importers, brokers, wholesalers and retailers who are suspected of importing defective or non-conforming products
- **Blitz** Periodically, the Import Surveillance Division stages a massive CPSC CPSC inspection effort, particularly in advance of a major event, like inspecting for violative toys before Christmas or fireworks before the July 4th holiday.
- **Track** Using U.S. Customs and Border Protection's sophisticated tracking system called ACE, CPSC investigators can gather critical intelligence on shipments, containers, manufacturers and products.



Hear more Information



Meet Carol Cave, Director of the Import Surveillance Division. She and her team are opening crates and inspecting products. If hazardous goods can be stopped at the docks, they won't make it onto store shelves and into homes.

¹ Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



RECALL SPOTLIGHT



MEGA BRANDS MAGTASTIK AND MAGNETIX JR. PRE-SCHOOL MAGNETIC TOYS

Units: About 1.1 million

Distributor: MEGA Brands America Inc., of Livingston, N.J.

Hazard: Magnets in the small flexible parts of the animals, vehicles and building sets can detach. Magnets found by young children can be swallowed or aspirated. If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforations or blockages, which can be fatal.


Incidents/Injuries: MEGA Brands and CPSC have received 19 reports of magnets coming loose, including one report of a 3-year-old boy receiving medical treatment to remove a magnet from his nasal cavity and one report of an 18-month-old boy with a magnet in his mouth, which was not swallowed.

Description: The Magtastik and Magnetix Jr. Pre-School Magnetic Toys include small flexible parts embedded with magnets that allow the parts to connect to large, colored metal balls.

Sold at: Wal-Mart, Target, Toys R Us, K-Mart and other toy stores nationwide from January 2005 through December 2007 for between \$10 and \$40.

Manufactured in: China



 View more information about this recall

MEGA BRANDS MAGNAMAN MAGNETIC ACTION FIGURES

Units: About 1.3 million

Distributor: MEGA Brands America Inc., of Livingston, N.J.

Hazard: Small magnets inside the figures can detach. Magnets found by young children can be swallowed or aspirated. If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforations or blockages, which can be fatal.

Incidents/Injuries: MEGA Brands and CPSC have received 25 reports of magnets coming loose from the figures. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The recalled MagnaMan magnetic toys are figures that have body parts that attach with magnets. They come in either a "Futuristic Warrior" or "Ancient Warrior" theme. Each figure comes with three accessories.

Sold at: Wal-Mart, Target, Toys R Us, K-Mart and other toy stores nationwide from January 2005 through December 2007 for about \$10.

Manufactured in: China

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact MEGA Brands at (800) 779-7122 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.megabrands.com



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.



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CPSC Recall Hotline 800-638-2772

RECENT RECALLS



TOASTERS

Hamilton Beach Brands Inc., of Glen Allen, Va., is recalling about 482,000 Hamilton Beach® and Proctor-Silex® Toasters. The toasters can remain “on” (energized) after popping up, and can ignite flammable items covering or in contact with the toaster, posing a fire hazard.



TOY PUZZLE VEHICLE

Merchant Media Corp., of Framingham, Mass., is recalling about 198,000 Toy Puzzle Vehicle Sets. Surface paints on the puzzle pieces and components contain excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.



PLUSH ROCKER TOYS

Tek Nek Toys Int'l L.P., of Southlake, Texas, is recalling about 122,000 Rock ‘N Ride Plush Rocker Toys. The base of the rocker can become unstable and allow the rocker to tip forward or backward, posing a fall hazard to children.



PLUSH WARMING POLAR BEARS

Avon Products Inc., of New York, N.Y., is recalling about 113,000 Cozy Warming Polar Bears. The warming pouch inside the bear can overheat and ignite when heated in a microwave oven, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers.



WIRE BOUND JOURNALS AND CALENDARS

Galison/Mudpuppy, of New York, N.Y., is recalling about 90,000 Wire-O Bound Journals and Calendars. The paint on the metal spiral bindings of the journals contains excessive levels of lead, which violated the federal lead paint standard.



PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSORS

Advance Stores Co., d.b.a. Advance Auto Parts, of Roanoke, Va., is recalling about 64,000 Strike Force™ Portable Air Compressors. The compressor’s motor can overheat and ignite the protective cover, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Also, the cover might not prevent internal components from being touched, which poses an electrical shock hazard.



GAS CONNECTORS

LDR Industries Inc., of Chicago, Ill., is recalling about 50,000 LDR 1200 Series Gas Connectors. The gas connectors can leak propane or natural gas, posing a fire and explosion hazard to consumers.



DEEP FRYERS

JCPenney, of Plano, Texas, is recalling about 27,000 Cooks Deep Fryers. The deep fryer has a faulty heating element which can cause it to overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers.



TOY SUNDAE

Battat Inc., of Plattsburgh, N.Y., is recalling about 22,000 Play Wonder Toy Sundae Sets. The wooden cherries on top of the toy sundae pose a choking hazard to young children.



TEALIGHT CANDLE HOLDERS

Pier 1 Imports, of Fort Worth, Texas, is recalling about 18,000 Silver Square Tealight Candle Holders. The spacing of the holes in a concentrated pattern allows the holder to heat-up. This can cause the tealights to burn unexpectedly fast and with a higher flame height than normal, posing a fire hazard.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government



I'm a Mom

“As the mother of two precious boys, including a 7 week old, I want to know about product defects and recalls that might affect my family. CPSC e-mail alerts provide this important information in a convenient, user-friendly format for busy moms like me. Thank you CPSC!”

Jeannie R.



IT'S FREE, FAST AND COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

Sign up for this FREE resource! Signing up is easy, it's fast, and it could save your life or the life of a family member. Simply provide us with your e-mail address and start receiving important information today. As soon as there is a recall, you'll know about it.

You can choose any of the following options:

- All CPSC press releases and recalls, the Public Calendar and E-Newsletter
- All CPSC press releases, including recalls
- All recalls only
- CPSC Public Calendar only
- E-Newsletter only
- Only those recalls involving infant/child products
- Only those recalls involving products used for sports & recreation
- Only those recalls involving products used outdoors
- Only those recalls involving household products
- Only those recalls involving specialty products

 **SIGN UP NOW**



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
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The SAFETY REVIEW

CHEMISTRY AT WORK

05:00:00 Today
An abandoned
Cold War-era
missile-tracking site

Suburban, Maryland

In a bedroom community of quiet cul-du-sacs and old growth maples, the neighbors are still sleeping. But in the misty morning darkness, Joel Recht has already had his second cup of coffee and is ready to embark on another mission for the government. Years of experience and training have taught him, sometimes painfully, that it's better to be prepared than lucky.

Today, Recht has one thing on his mind: make it to the chemical lab where he knows there's a potentially dangerous substance that awaits his well-trained eyes...



Dr. Joel Recht
Director of the CPSC
Chemistry Division

Joel Recht has a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Rutgers and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Cornell. He and his wife Monica have two boys, Ben (6) and Jacob (8).



Recht and the Chem Team show off some of their "weapons" in the war against dangerous consumer products

(Left to right: Neal Gasser, Dwayne Davis, Dr. Joel Recht, Thomas Hardison, Dr. Shing-Bong Chen, David Cobb; not pictured: Dr. Bharat Bhooshan)

It could be the opening to the latest crime novel, but Dr. Joel Recht is a very real scientist, doggedly working to protect American families. The lab, on the grounds of a former missile-tracking site, is the location of CPSC's testing facility, and the important work that Recht and the CPSC Laboratory's Chemistry Division do in this modest building is critical to saving lives.

Recht is the Director of the CPSC Laboratory's Chemistry Division. He and his team of chemists and technicians are product hazard analysts, testing many of the toys that make headlines for being recalled. Some hazards are familiar like lead and asbestos, but there are some unfamiliar ones like 1,4-butanediol, which was recently found coated on a popular children's toy causing children to fall into a coma-like state.

The Chemistry Division is not a large group, so they have to adapt to a variety of situations. "We don't have the luxury of having specialists," says Recht. "We all test toys. We all test for lead. It's part of the job for everyone to pitch in." Recht and his team are scientists and chemists by training, but what makes the team special is their ability to apply flexibility, creativity, and expertise in chemistry to a wide range of potential hazards.

Sophisticated instruments and technology have allowed the team to keep pace with evolving demands. Handheld X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzers, which look like weapons out of science-fiction, and other tools, can quickly detect hazardous chemicals and enable the staff to provide rapid analysis of potentially dangerous consumer products. But presence of a hazardous chemical in a product does not necessarily mean the consumer is exposed, and often the team must do follow-up tests involving simulated skin contact, mouthing, or ingestion.

In recent months, the CPSC Laboratory's Chemistry Division has been hit with an unprecedented level of activity. Recht explains, "our primary job is simple: to determine if a certain product does or does not violate a safety standard. We have to work quickly to ensure public safety." The team's remarkable success and efficiency is seen in more than 1,800 sample items being tested in just the last nine months for lead in paint or plastic on toys and in children's jewelry. That's triple what the agency has seen in prior years, but the team stays on top of the surge. Recht and his team are prepared. "What makes this job really interesting is that when you come in to work in the morning, anything can happen, and we'll be ready if it does," he says.