

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE NANCY A. NORD,
ACTING CHAIRMAN, U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
INTERIM ENFORCEMENT POLICY
FOR CHILDRENS METAL JEWELRY CONTAINING LEAD

February 1, 2008

Today, I am voting to direct the general counsel to issue for comments a Federal Register notice to enhance and strengthen the existing enforcement policy concerning children's metal jewelry containing lead. Because we will shortly be without a quorum, I am also voting to direct the staff to review relevant comments, brief the commissioners and, if appropriate, proceed to publish a final statement of enforcement policy in this matter.

The effect of this change will be to require more rigorous testing to determine if children's jewelry containing lead concentrations of more than 0.06 percent by weight is a banned hazardous substance. Under the new testing methods being proposed, the threshold for finding that an item of jewelry is a banned hazardous substance and that corrective action is appropriate, will be lowered. This result is consistent with the Commission's longstanding advice to manufacturers to limit or eliminate the use of lead in products designed for children. It is also consistent to the agency's commitment to removing lead from children's environment, whenever possible.

The proposed enforcement policy, if finalized, will further enhance our ability to protect children. Because this enforcement policy has broad policy implications, it is appropriate that the Commission take this action.