

CITY OF BALTIMORE

MARTIN O'MALLEY, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOSHUA M. SHARFSTEIN, M.D., Commissioner  
210 Guilford Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21202

The Office of the Secretary  
Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

August 18, 2006

RE: *Petition HP 06-1, Petition Requesting Ban on Lead Children's Jewelry*

To the Commission:

We are writing to comment on Sierra Club petition HP 06-1 that calls for the ban of children's jewelry containing more than 0.06% lead.

The Baltimore City Health Department has recently conducted its own random testing of jewelry purchased throughout the city of Baltimore. Four of the 17 items tested contained elements with more than 600 parts per million of lead, the federal standard for lead in paint. The four items were:

- A pearl ring sold at Claire's as part of the "Princess Collection" which contained elements as high as 68,071 parts per million of lead. Claire's has voluntarily withdrawn this ring from the market in Baltimore City.
- A ring with hearts sold at Wal-Mart as part of "Girl Connection" jewelry set with 3,540 parts per million of lead. Wal-Mart is voluntarily removing the item from its stores nationwide.
- A ring sold at Claire's with the flower containing 874 parts per million of lead and the ring 622 parts per million of lead.
- A ring sold at Claire's with the ring containing 682 parts per million of lead.

On the basis of our findings, the Department has proposed a regulation that would ban the sale of children's jewelry in which any component contains more than 0.06% lead. Our full proposal includes a discussion of the failure of current federal standards. It is attached.

The full results of the testing are online at  
<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/health/jewelry.html>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Olivia Farrow at 410-396-4422.

Sincerely,

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