USA CPSC announced a new enforcement policy to address children's metal jewelry containing lead. In 2004, CPSC announced a recall of 150 million pieces of toy jewelry sold in vending machines because the products contained dangerous levels of lead. The new policy focuses on the approach that CPSC's Office of Compliance will follow and specifies the laboratory test procedures for use to analyze the lead content.

According to the new policy, CPSC staff will first conduct a screening test to determine the lead content of each type of component in a piece of jewelry. If the total lead content of any component type exceeds 600 ppm, an acid extraction test will be performed. If the total lead concentration of any component type exceeds 600 ppm and the accessible lead from the same component type exceeds 175 µg, CPSC will decide whether to pursue a corrective action on a case-by-case basis. In making that decision, CPSC staff will consider a number of factors:

1. The age grading of the jewelry item;
2. The level of accessible lead;
3. The dimensions of the components having accessible lead;
4. The probable routes of exposure, and the number of items sold or offered for sale;

In some cases, labeling rather than recall may be appropriate.

This Interim Enforcement Policy will become effective on February 3, 2005 and will remain effective until further notice. Should you have any query on the above news, please contact Ms. Denise Chan at Tel: (852) 2173-8770 / Fax to (852) 2785-8570 / Email: enquiry@intertek.com