

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Dear Customer:

Letters and other representations from us in the past have stated that our Lead Free SS Series and Lead Free BC Series Lacquers (and their clear coat counterparts) were in compliance with ASTM F 963-03 and the European Standard EN-71-3:1994/A1:2000, essentially stating that these inks were safe for use on children's toys.

As of January 11, 2009, these products will no longer be in compliance due to the new phthalate ban which takes effect on that date (see below for specifics of the ban).

**Children's Products: Phthalates Ban, Effective January 11, 2009**

The Act prohibits the use of certain phthalates in children's toys or child-care articles effective January 11, 2009. Like a "children's product," a "children's toy" is defined by the Act as a product "designed or intended by the manufacturer for a child 12 years of age or younger for use by the child when the child plays." A "child care article" is defined as a "product designed or intended by the manufacturer to facilitate sleep or the feeding of children age 3 and younger, or to help such children with sucking or teething." See Section 108(e).

Toys or articles containing concentrations of more than 0.1% of di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP) or benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP) are permanently prohibited. Children's toys which can be placed in a child's mouth or other child-care articles containing concentrations of more than 0.1 percent of diisononyl phthalate (DINP), diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP) or di-n-octyl phthalate (DnOP) are prohibited until final rules are enacted by the CPSC following a study on the effects of phthalates on children's health.

Cudner & O'Connor is currently reformulating these ink lines to remove the phthalates and replace them with suitable, compliant plasticizers.

Though it's unlikely that the printer will experience any performance difference with the reformulated ink systems, we will be happy to send samples of the reformulated inks for your in-house evaluation; just let us know.

Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions or comments about the new regulation or about the reformulated ink lines.

Thank you,

CUDNER & O'CONNOR CO