

Connecticut Department of Public Health
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Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Message Cover Sheet

DATE: July 9, 2009

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Regional Lead Treatment Centers
Lead Contacts

FROM: Jeff Curran
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RE: American Greetings Corp. Recalls Sport Balls Due to Violation of Lead Paint Standard

cc: LPPCP Staff, Suzanne Blancaflor, Joan Jordan (CT DCP)

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

Please see the attached product recall issued by CPSC. The product (DesignWare Sport Balls) is imported by American Greetings Corp., of Cleveland, Ohio. The surface coating on the basketball contains excessive levels of lead, in violation of the federal lead paint standard. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

This recall involves DesignWare Sport Balls party favors. The package contains four mini sport balls: a basketball, a football, a baseball and a soccer ball. The model number is SPBL 1821 and is printed on the packaging.

The sport balls were sold at various retailers in the U.S. and Canada from August 2004 through April 2009 for about \$3.50. They were manufactured in China.

Please see the recall notice for specific information for consumers and contact information for the company. You may also contact the CT Department of Public Health Lead Poisoning Prevention & Control Program at 860-509-7299.



NEWS from CPSC and HC



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

U.S. Consumer
Product
Safety Commission
www.cpsc.gov

Health Canada
www.hc-sc.gc.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 9, 2009
Release # 09-267

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 777-4891
CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908
HC Media Contact: (613) 957-2983

American Greetings Corp. Recalls Sport Balls Due to Violation of Lead Paint Standard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Health Canada, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: DesignWare Sport Balls

Units: About 90,000 packages in the United States and 1,900 in Canada

Importer: American Greetings Corp., of Cleveland, Ohio

Hazard: The surface coating on the basketball contains excessive levels of lead, in violation of the federal lead paint standard.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported

Description: This recall involves DesignWare Sport Balls party favors. The package contains four mini sport balls: a basketball, a football, a baseball and a soccer ball. The model number is SPBL 1821 and is printed on the packaging.

Sold at: Various retailers in the U.S. and Canada from August 2004 through April 2009 for about \$3.50.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the recalled sport balls away from children and contact American Greetings to receive a coupon for a replacement product.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact American Greetings at (800) 777-4891 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.ag.com

Note: Health Canada's press release is available at http://209.217.71.106/PR/recall-retrait-e.jsp?re_id=796

