
❖SPC&B Safety News❖

A Newsletter for Clients of Sharretts, Paley, Carter & Blauvelt, P.C.

March 14, 2011

CPSC Officially Launches Consumer Product Safety Information Database



On March 11, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) officially launched the publicly available searchable database of consumer-reported hazardous products and incidents, at www.saferproducts.gov. Although an amendment to the government funding bill that passed in the House would have prohibited the use of fiscal year 2011 funds for the establishment of this program, it failed to pass in the Senate and the CPSC proceeded with its implementation.

During the soft launch of the database, consumer reports and manufacturer responses were not subject to publication nor will they be published now that the database has gone live. Nevertheless, consumer reports submitted from now on are subject to publication if they meet applicable requirements.

Once a consumer submits a report for publication on the database, the CPSC must notify the manufacturer/importer within 5 business days and the manufacturer/importer then has 10 business days to submit comments about the report. After the 15-day period, the report and any comments submitted for publication by the importer/manufacturer will be posted on the database. The importer/manufacturer can submit additional comments after the initial posting, even if it did not file comments before publication.

Problems encountered in connection with the program include the fact that it does not allow for retailers or licensees to respond to consumer reports even if their names are referred to in the reports. Only manufacturers or importers can submit comments for publication and register on the site.

Once again, we urge all manufacturers and importers to register their contact information on the website, if they have not already done so. Registration is recommended so that, in the event that a consumer files a report on one of your company's products, the CPSC will be able to contact the appropriate personnel directly via email. The CPSC has advised that over 1400 companies have registered to date.

Anyone with questions on how to register with the product safety database or on how to respond to a consumer report should contact Gail Cumins at gcumins@spcblaw.com, Donna Shira at dshira@spcblaw.com, or Alli Baron at abarons@spcblaw.com, or call us at 212-425-0055.

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