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# ❖SPC&B Safety News❖

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

June 29, 2011

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## *CPSC Votes on Mandatory Drawstring Ban*



The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) today voted to specify that children's upper body garments in sizes 2T to 12 with neck or hood drawstrings and children's upper body garments in sizes 2T to 16 with certain types of waist or bottom drawstrings are a substantial product hazard, effectively making the current "voluntary" drawstring standard a mandatory ban. Because the agency has been treating children's upper body garments with drawstrings at the hood and neck area as posing a substantial risk of injury to young children, resulting in numerous recalls over the past few years, the new regulation does not represent a significant change in practice.

The standard prohibits the use of drawstrings on the hood and neck areas of children's clothing sizes 2T to 12 and requires waist/bottom drawstrings on children's upper body garments to not exceed 3 inches in length outside the drawstring channel when the garment is expanded to its fullest width. Furthermore, the drawstrings at the waist/bottom cannot have toggles, knots, or other attachments at the free end. If the waist/bottom drawstring is one continuous string, it must be bartacked or sewn to the garment at the midpoint of the channel so that it cannot be pulled out of the channel.

If you have concerns about features of your children's products that might be considered a risk of injury, please contact Gail Cumins at [gcumins@spcblaw.com](mailto:gcumins@spcblaw.com), Alli Baron at [abaron@spcblaw.com](mailto:abaron@spcblaw.com), or Donna Shira at [dshira@spcblaw.com](mailto:dshira@spcblaw.com), or call us at 212-425-0055, for further information. A safety review conducted now can prevent the inadvertent distribution of hazardous products into commerce and the enforcement actions and safety recalls that can ensue.

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