IPC EFFORTS PAY OFF: ELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL BE EXEMPT FROM

CPSIA LEAD LIMIT FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Certain electronics products intended for children will be exempted from the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) lead limit beginning on February 10, 2009. Under the CPSIA, the lead content in electronics products intended for children is required to be no greater than 600 parts per million (ppm). The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued an interim rule because the January 15, 2009 proposed rules would have been finalized after the February 10, 2009 CPSIA compliance deadline.

The CPSC’s interim rule and the January 15, 2009 proposed rules clarifies that lead contained within electronics parts is inaccessible to children. As a result of IPC efforts, the CPSC has recognized that lead in a component part of electronic devices is not accessible to children because the lead is fully enclosed within a component that is itself within the electronic device. Additionally, the CPSC has also exempted the lead content in electronics because it is currently not technologically feasible for certain parts of electronic devices to comply with the CPSIA lead limits of 600 ppm.

IPC in conjunction with the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) and the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) will be providing comments on the 2009 proposed rules to reiterate the industry’s support for these necessary exemptions.

The January 15, 2009 proposed rules are expected to become a final rule near the end of February 2009. For more information on CPSC regulations and guidance, please visit http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/cpsia.html or contact Ron Chamrin, IPC manager of government relations, at +1 703-522-0225 or RonChamrin@ipc.org.