

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Testing Reveals Items of Children's Jewelry with Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (July 8, 2008) — The Baltimore City Health Department has issued violation notices to two businesses prohibiting the sale of a children's jewelry product that were identified with lead levels in metal components above 600 parts per million. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been alerted.

The Health Commissioner is deeming all products of the same style and manufacturer of these items to be a nuisance to public health. These products may not be offered for retail sale in Baltimore City.

Under a regulation adopted on December 7, 2006, children's jewelry containing more than 1200 parts per million were not to be offered for retail sale in Baltimore City. As of September 1, 2007, children's jewelry with metal components containing in excess of 600 parts per million of total lead are banned.

The items identified were sold at Y&K Mart, 2201 Harford Road, and Kmart, 5100 Sinclair Lane, and are listed below:

1) Y&K Mart



Packaging



Items outside of packaging



Close-up of earrings

Kid's Necklace:

- 1) Ladybug necklace –
 - a. the chain contained 54,500 parts per million (ppm) of lead
 - b. the ladybug charm contained 375,000 ppm of lead
- 2) Ladybug earrings – contained 188,000 ppm of lead



In the package



Close-up of fairy charm

Kid's Bracelet with fairy charms and beads – the bracelet contained 192,000 ppm of lead

2) Kmart



Packaging



Ring



Earrings

Earrings and ring set:

- 1) Three frog ring – the ring contained 3,100 ppm of lead
- 2) Frog earrings – the earrings contained 1,640 ppm of lead

Lead is a neurotoxin that can cause severe illness and even death at high doses and cognitive impairment and other neurological problems at lower doses. The standard for lead in paint is 600 parts per million of lead. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is reviewing {the comment period ended} comments about a proposal to create a rule establishing a legal limit of 600 parts per million for lead in children's jewelry. Such a standard is not in effect at the federal level.

The Health Department tested 12 items of children's jewelry in July 2008. The above items were the only items found to be in excess of 600 parts per million. A full report of the testing and results will be released later today.

Baltimore's regulation on lead in children's jewelry can be found online at http://www.baltimorehealth.org/press/2006_12_07_lead_regs.pdf

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