

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Petition Requesting a Ban of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) in All Toys and Other Products Intended for Children 5 Years of Age and Under

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission has received a petition under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) (Petition No. HP 99-1) from the National Environmental Trust and 11 other organizations. The petition asks the Commission to ban the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in toys and other products intended for the use of children age 5 and under. The Commission solicits written comments concerning the petition from all interested parties.

DATES: Comments on the petition should be received in the Office of the Secretary by February 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the petition should be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, telephone (301) 504-0800, or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda Maryland 20814. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments should be captioned "Petition HP 99-1—PVC Children's Articles." Copies of the petition are available by writing or calling the Office of the Secretary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rockelle Hammond, Docket Control and Communications Specialist, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone: (301) 504-0800 ext. 1232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission has docketed correspondence from the National Environmental Trust and 11 other organizations as a petition under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) (Petition No. HP 99-1). The petition requests that the CPSC (1) "[i]nstitute an immediate ban on polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in all toys and other products intended for children five years of age and under" and (2) "[i]ssue a national advisory on the health risks that have been associated with soft plastic vinyl (PVC) toys to inform parents and consumers about the risks associated with PVC toys currently in stores and homes." These requests result from the petitioners' concerns

about health risks from phthalates (especially DINP), lead, and cadmium that can be in PVC.

The Commission solicits comments on the issues raised by the petition, particularly on the extent to which children might be exposed to the identified hazards. The requested "national advisory" would not require rulemaking to implement. Therefore, that request technically is not part of the docketed petition. Nevertheless, the Commission solicits comment on this request also.

Comments to CPSC should be mailed, preferably in five copies, to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207-0001, or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland; telephone (301) 504-0800. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments should be captioned "Petition HP 99-1—PVC Children's Articles."

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the petition from the CPSC's website at <http://www.cpsc.gov> or by writing or calling the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-0800. A copy of the petition is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Commission's Public Reading Room, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Dated: December 16, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary of the Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.037]

Office of Postsecondary Education

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1998-99 School Year.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education (the Secretary) announces that the 1998-99 Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools (The Directory) is now available on the Department of Education's (the Department) Web site. Under the

Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan programs, a borrower may have repayment of his or her loan deferred and a portion of his or her loan canceled if the borrower teaches full-time for a complete academic year in a designated elementary or secondary school having a high concentration of students from low-income families. In the 1998-99 Directory, the Secretary lists, on a State-by-State and Territory-by-Territory basis, the schools in which a borrower may teach during the 1998-99 school year to qualify for deferment and cancellation benefits.

DATES: The Directory is currently available at the Department's Web site.

ADDRESSES: Information concerning specific schools listed in the Directory may be obtained from Chrisetta Nelson, Systems Administration Branch, Campus-Based Programs Systems Division, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Portals Building, Room 6200), Washington, D.C. 20202-5447, Telephone (202) 708-7738. Information concerning deferment and cancellation of a National Director Federal Perkins loan may be obtained from Sylvia Ross or Gail McLarnon, Program Specialists, Campus-Based Loan Programs Section, Loans Branch, Policy Development Division, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Regional Office Building 3, Room 3045), Washington, D.C. 20202-5447, Telephone (202) 708-8242. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Directories are also available in an electronic format at (1) each institution of higher education participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program, (2) each of the fifty-seven (57) State and Territory Departments of Education, (3) each of the major Federal Perkins Loan billing services, and (4) the U.S. Department of Education, including its regional offices.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this notice in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary selects schools that qualify a borrower for deferment and cancellation benefits under the procedures contained in the Federal Perkins Loan program