

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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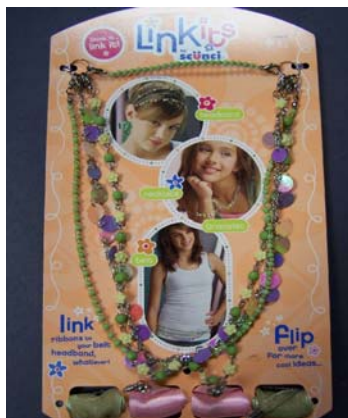
Testing Reveals Items of Children's Jewelry with Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (January 31, 2008) — The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to a business prohibiting the sale of a children's jewelry product that was identified with a lead level 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 this item to be a nuisance to public health. This product 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 item identified was sold at Rite Aid, 903 East Fort Avenue, and is listed below:



Product packaging



Specific piece that contains a high level of lead

Strand with green beads that is included in a product called LinkIts. The strand contained 1,597 parts per million 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 6 items of children's jewelry in December 2007. The above item was the only item 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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