



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN INEZ M. TENENBAUM ON
THE PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE RULE DEFINING A “CHILDREN’S PRODUCT”
March 31, 2010**

Today’s unanimous vote on the proposed interpretive rule defining a “children’s product” demonstrates the Commission’s strong and continued commitment to listening to our stakeholders on important issues they are facing.

A rule providing further guidance on what constitutes a children’s product was not required by the CPSIA, yet the Commission listened to and heard the need for this guidance from our stakeholders. While traveling in Asia and talking with our stakeholders in the United States, this was a common question that I encountered. My fellow Commissioners and agency staff also heard similar questions, and collectively, we agreed on the need for this interpretive rule. The very hard work put into creating what we believe to be a helpful rule by agency staff, Commission staff, and my fellow Commissioners is reflective of a Commission that listens to, hears, and greatly values the input of the regulated community and all stakeholders.

The issuance of this rule also is a further demonstration of the Commission’s dedication to educating our stakeholders where they may need further guidance on important issues. I believe that the Commission is fully committed to strengthening our education and outreach initiatives in the future and this type of rulemaking demonstrates that commitment. We will strive to continue the many webinars, speaking engagements, and workshops conducted by CPSC staff and Commissioners that have proven helpful to our stakeholders.

In addition to hearing the need for specific rules like this one, I also generally hear from our stakeholders in the regulated community that they want predictability and certainty on these kinds of issues sooner rather than later. The agency staff, Commission staff, and my fellow Commissioners have pushed forward vigorously to provide this guidance in a timely manner and will continue to do so. I very much appreciate this hard work and I believe the regulated community also appreciates our efforts to provide guidance and clarity sooner rather than later. While the children’s product rule that the Commission unanimously approved today is only a proposed rule, I trust that the agency will receive constructive feedback during the comment period and move to a final rule that provides more predictability and certainty to our stakeholders in as timely a manner as possible.