

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
LOG OF MEETING**

CPSA  
NO. 10/16/06  
PRODUCTION  
EXCEPTED  
EMERGENCY  
LOG

**SUBJECT: Binational Lead Meeting**

**DATE OF MEETING: 9/28/06-9/29/06**

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:**

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY: 10/16/06**

**LOCATION: San Diego CA**

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S): David Cobb, Frank Nava**

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Representaives from US, Mexico, and Border State health and regulatory agencies including FDA, CDC, Cal Dept of Health, and COFEPRIS (Mexico).**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING: To share information on the public health impact of exposure to lead in candy, ceramic ware, and home remedies in the US and Mexico, and to identify collaborative binational initiatives to address these health risks and promote non-lead based alternatives**

## **TRIP REPORT**

**TITLE:** Binational Lead Meeting

**PLACE:** San Diego, CA

**PARTICIPANTS:** Representatives from US, Mexico, and Border State health and regulatory agencies. List attached.

**OBJECTIVES:** To share information on the public health impact of exposure to lead in candy, ceramic ware, and home remedies in the US and Mexico, and to identify collaborative binational initiatives to address these health risks and promote non-lead based alternatives

**AGENDA:** The first day participants from COFEPRIS (Mex), FDA, CDC, Cal Dept of Health, and Cal Attorney General's Office presented overview presentations each country's and agency's perspective on exposure to lead from candy, ceramic ware, and home remedies and its public health impact. Some key points of information presented:

1. Sources of lead in Mexican candy include chili pepper, salt, and tamarind. Lead comes from dust that gets into ground chilies (avg lead content of 1ppm) during the drying and milling process and not the growing process. Mined salt contains a much higher lead content than sea salts. Production controls such as washing the chilies and using marine salts greatly reduces lead contamination of candy. The new proposed FDA lead limit for candy is 0.1ppm.
2. Candy wrappers and PVC sticks are other sources of lead contamination of candy. These would fall under CPSC jurisdiction. California found 12% of the wrappers with high lead levels (>20 ppm). The lead in the wrappers is from paint or inks applied.
3. Lead in ceramic ware comes from the varnish or glaze applied. There are alternative lead free glazes, but these glazes do not give the desired shiny finish. FDA reported high violation rate of pottery imported into US, but pottery produced in the US especially among some of the Indian tribes contain lead from the glaze. Much of the ceramic ware from Mexico comes from small family businesses that use drying ovens that do not heat to temperatures adequate for the safe curing of the lead glaze. Lead glazed ceramic ware from producers that use high curing temperatures do not leach high levels of lead.
4. Lead is also found in some traditional home remedies. Azarcon and Greta contain high percentages of lead.
5. Other sources of lead mentioned included chapulines (candy covered grasshoppers), reusable soda bottles throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> world contain lead paint, lead jewelry, plastics.

Participants were split into 2 workgroups on the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> day; Candy Work Group and the Ceramic Ware/Home Remedies Work Group. Work groups were formed in the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> day. I joined the candy work group since we

have been involved in testing some wrappers. Each work group developed action plans that defined issues, objectives, and strategies needed to address reducing the products lead hazard. Key US and Mexico agencies were identified to carry out this work.

The Candy work group identified the following 3 issues as most important:

1. Optimizing sampling strategies and lead testing procedures for candy products
2. Need for support of candy manufactures to implement Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)
3. Need for uniformity in risk analysis methodology.

CPSC was identified as a key agency for involvement in optimizing sampling strategies and lead testing procedures as they relate to the candy wrappers.

**OVERVIEW:** The meeting was informative but limited to products that CPSC has limited jurisdiction or involvement with. I think we need to maintain contact with this group to assist and review in the development of sampling and test procedure guidelines that relate to the candy wrappers. I think this involvement can be done through phone and email contact. If the group becomes more involved with products that CPSC regulates, participation in the meetings may be needed.