November 2016

Welcome to the November edition of the Alston & Bird CPSC Recall Snapshot.

Last month, the CPSC announced a \$3.8 million civil penalty against Best Buy for selling recalled products. The CPSC's press release alleges that Best Buy "failed to implement adequate procedures to accurately identify, quarantine, and prevent the sales of the recalled products across all of its supply channels." About 600 recalled items, including 400 recalled cameras, were sold to consumers over a five-year period. According to the settlement agreement, these post-recall sales resulted in one reported injury – a skin irritation from a recalled camera. Given the millions of products sold by Best Buy during this period, the complex supply chain logistics related to selling millions of products across various channels, and the absence of any significant injuries caused by the sale of the recalled products, it is rather onerous to impose a multimillion-dollar civil penalty for an inadvertent glitch that allowed only 600 products among millions sold to slip through the system.

In other news, as the holiday season approaches, efforts by both government agencies and interest groups to "keep kids safe and stop dangerous and violative toys from reaching kids' hands" have increased. Earlier this month, the CPSC issued a news release indicating that it and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) were working together to meet those goals and to "detect and detain shipments of toys and children's products ... to create a safer marketplace for holiday shoppers." The news release indicates that toy recalls "have continued to decline." Still, the CPSC provides safety tips for parents to keep in mind this holiday season. In the same vein, W.A.T.C.H. (World Against Toys Causing Harm Inc.) revealed its annual list of "10 worst toys." W.A.T.C.H. provided explanations for why each toy was included on its list and provided safety tips to consumers and manufacturers alike. Both of these releases provide useful information to consumers for keeping children safe this holiday season.

Click <u>here</u> to subscribe to the *Snapshot*. For additional information or questions about CPSC issues, please email me at: <u>jenifer.keenan@alston.com</u>.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Keenan, Esq.

Editor

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Voluntary Recalls Announced by the CPSC in October 2016

NUMBER OF RECALLS BY PRODUCT CATEGORY

Child/Infant – 9 Furniture – 5 Sporting Goods – 5 Housewares – 4
Electronics – 2 Appliance – 1 Tools/Hardware – 3 Yard Equipment – 1

PRODUCT	PRODUCT CATEGORY	ALLEGED HAZARD	REPORTED INJURIES	NUMBER OF PRODUCTS
Nightgown <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Burn Hazard	0	31,500
Bed Canopy <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Entanglement/ Strangulation Hazard	0	1,000
Bathtub <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Impact/Drowning Hazard	11	86,000
Stroller <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Fall Hazard	0	3,000 U.S. 1 Can.
Educational Light Cube <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Fire Hazard	0	1,400
Baby Carrier <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Fall Hazard	0	130 U.S. 1,000 Can.
LED Gel Cling <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Choking/Ingestion Hazard	0	127,000
Car Seat Strap System Press Release	Child/Infant	Choking Hazard	0	250
Ride-On Vehicle <u>Press Release</u>	Child/Infant	Fire/Burn Hazard	1	3,000
Chair <u>Press Release</u>	Furniture	Fall Hazard	0	129,000
Hammock <u>Press Release</u>	Furniture	Fall Hazard	1	9,700
Barstool <u>Press Release</u>	Furniture	Fall Hazard	4	108,000 U.S. 6,200 Can.
Lounge Chair <u>Press Release</u>	Furniture	Fall Hazard	0	800

PRODUCT	PRODUCT CATEGORY	ALLEGED HAZARD	REPORTED INJURIES	NUMBER OF PRODUCTS
Chair <u>Press Release</u>	Furniture	Fall Hazard	0	600
Electric Scooter <u>Press Release</u>	Sporting Goods	Fall Hazard	1	230
Powerline Inflator <u>Press Release</u>	Sporting Goods	Injury/Drowning Hazard	0	53,000
Bicycle <u>Press Release</u>	Sporting Goods	Injury Hazard	1	1,000
Ski Boots <u>Press Release</u>	Sporting Goods	Fall Hazard	0	1,300 U.S. 300 Can.
Diving Computers Press Release	Sporting Goods	Drowning/Injury Hazard	0	175
Rice/Slow Cooker <u>Press Release</u>	Housewares	Fire/Electric Shock Hazard	1	175,000 U.S. 100 Can.
Food Dehydrator <u>Press Release</u>	Housewares	Fire Hazard	0	3,000
Hand Truck <u>Press Release</u>	Housewares	Laceration/Injury Hazard	5	120,000
Craft Paint <u>Press Release</u>	Housewares	Bacteria Exposure Hazard	0	2.8 million U.S. 20,000 Can.
Panic Device <u>Press Release</u>	Electronics	Failure Hazard	0	67,000
Smartphone <u>Press Release</u>	Electronics	Fire/Burn Hazard	13	1.9 million
Wood Stove <u>Press Release</u>	Appliance	Injury Hazard	2	650
Circular Saw <u>Press Release</u>	Tools/Hardware	Laceration Hazard	0	450
Lawn Mower <u>Press Release</u>	Yard Equipment	Laceration Hazard	0	208,000 U.S. 27,000 Can.

Civil Penalties Announced by the CPSC in October 2016

PRODUCT	PRODUCT CATEGORY	BASIS FOR PENALTY	CIVIL PENALTY AMOUNT
Various Products Press Release	Electronics/ Housewares	Knowing distribution and sale of previously recalled consumer products.	\$3.8 million
		The settlement related to 16 different products sold between 2010 and 2015. Approximately 600 such products were sold during this time.	

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