



THE ART & CREATIVE MATERIALS INSTITUTE, INC.

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Statement by The Art & Creative Materials Institute On Art Material Safety

by Deborah Fanning, CAE, Executive Vice President
and Deborah Gustafson, Associate Director

ACMI-Certified Art Materials Can Be Used Safely

BOSTON, Sept. 12, 2007 – In response to recent recalls of consumer products and media attention related to lead content of imported children’s products, ACMI would like parents, caregivers, art educators, artists and others to know that they can use ACMI-certified art materials safely. All children’s products in the ACMI Certification Program are tested for lead as a requirement for ACMI certification. In addition, ACMI requires lead testing on formula changes to children’s products as deemed appropriate by the toxicologist and requires re-testing of children’s products for lead as part of the five-year formula review/verification process required under the Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act (LHAMA).

Why ACMI’s Certification Program is an Effective Safeguard

For over 65 years, ACMI has led the industry with a program to certify children’s art materials as non-toxic and expanded its program in 1982 to include certification of adult art materials, ensuring that health warning labels are affixed where appropriate on these adult products. All children’s materials must be non-toxic and cannot have any health warnings. Today, the toxicology portion of that program is directed by Woodhall Stopford, MD, MSPH, of Duke University Medical Center Occupational Health Service. Products evaluated through the ACMI Certification Program undergo a rigorous toxicological review that takes the following into account:

- All three routes of exposure (ingestion, inhalation and absorption)
- Use of the product by a small child
- Each ingredient and its quantity, including every color in a product line
- Possible adverse interaction with other ingredients
- The product’s size and packaging
- Potential acute and chronic harm to any part of the human body
- Possible allergic reaction
- How a product is commonly used and misused
- U.S. national and state art material labeling regulations

LOOK FOR THESE SEALS.....



ACMI also has a Toxicological Advisory Board composed of leading toxicological experts in the United States. They review the criteria used by ACMI's Toxicologist and act as a review board on issues of toxicity. Current members of the Toxicological Advisory Board are Elaina Kenyon, PhD, Toxicologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; James C. Lamb IV, PhD, Vice President and Director of Toxicology and Environmental Sciences, The Weinberg Group Inc.; John H. Mennear, PhD, Consultant Scientist in Pharmacology & Toxicology; and Thomas B. Starr, PhD, Principal, ENVIRON International Corp.

Parents, educators and others are urged to read the labels on all art material products to understand which have been evaluated by ACMI and which are non-toxic or need special handling to avoid possible health hazards from misuse. Look for the ACMI Seals so you will know the product has been evaluated by a qualified toxicologist for both acute and chronic hazards. All products evaluated by ACMI will bear a conformance statement to ASTM D4236 as required by LHAMA. Products bearing the AP Seal are certified in a toxicological evaluation by a medical expert to contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or injurious to humans, including children, or to cause acute or chronic health problems. Some products bearing the AP Seal may also be certified to meet specific requirements of material, workmanship, working qualities, and color developed by ACMI and others through recognized standards organizations such as ANSI (the American National Standards Institute) or ASTM (ASTM International). Such products will also include the words "& ANSI (or ASTM) Standard # _____" on the label with the conformance statement to ASTM D4236. Products bearing the CL Seal are certified to be properly labeled in a program of toxicological evaluation by a medical expert for any known health risks and with information on the safe and proper use of these materials. This Seal appears on only 15% of the adult art materials in ACMI's Certification Program and on none of the children's materials. Remember to purchase only products with the ACMI AP Seal for children in grade six or lower or any persons who cannot read or understand the safety labeling on product packages. This will ensure that you are using only non-toxic products with young children and physically or mentally handicapped individuals.

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The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. is an international trade association and the leading authority on art and craft materials. ACMI's more than 200 members are art and craft materials manufacturers. Since its inception, ACMI's certification program has certified that products in the program are either non-toxic or appropriately labeled with cautionary language and safe use instructions.

ACMI seeks to create and maintain a positive environment for art, craft and other creative materials usage; to promote safety in these materials; and to serve as an information and service resource on such products. In these ways, ACMI provides leadership, guidance, and education to all to achieve greater participation in art, craft and other creative activities.