



CPSIA Compliance: Tracking Labels

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***Presented by
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6 Billion Feet and Legs...



Who We Are

- Founded in 1905, The Hosiery Association (THA) is the trade association and leading advocate for quality legwear manufacturers (socks, pantyhose, tights, leggings, medical, and compression products) their suppliers and resource partners.
- With a united, global and diverse membership, the industry employees approximately 40,000 people across 21 states.
- In 2008 our industry generated over \$6.3 billion dollars in retail sales.

Current Situation

- The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) was designed to protect American consumers and their children from hazardous products.
- The Hosiery Association (THA), The Hosiery Technology Center (HTC) and its Legwear Coalition for Consumer Product Safety is, and always has been, dedicated to ensuring that all of its products are safe for consumer use.

Section 103 of the CPSIA:

“... the manufacturer of a children’s product shall place permanent, distinguishing marks on the product and its packaging, to the extent practicable, that will enable—

Tracking Label Objective

- “(A) the **manufacturer** to ascertain the location and date of production of the product, cohort information (including the batch, run number, or other identifying characteristic), and any other information determined by the manufacturer to facilitate ascertaining the specific source of the product by reference to those marks.
- “(B) the **ultimate purchaser** to ascertain the manufacturer or private labeler, location and date of production of the product, and cohort information (including the batch, run number, or other identifying characteristic).”

Tracking Label Objective

- The use of the terms “**enable**” and “**ascertain**” indicate that the focus of the provision is not to prescribe a procedure or a mechanism - or even a standard - for tracking labels, but rather to allow for the obtaining of certain information.

Tracking Label Overview Socks

- Section 103 mandates labels ***“to the extent practicable”***
- It is not ***“practicable”*** to include permanent labels on socks.
- Socks do not have labels attached to them.
- Articles of clothing are exempt from labeling when “the utility or appearance would be substantially impaired by a permanently attached label”.

* *Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines, Section 423.1(c)(1) of the Care Labeling Rule.*

Tracking Label Overview Socks

- FTC: “attaching a label to a hosiery item such as a sock or stocking ‘would result in an uncomfortable, unattractive or damaged’ article.”
(September 28, 2008)
- Would CPSC conflict with FTC standard?
- CPSC should clarify.

Tracking Label Overview

Socks: Solution

- It is “practicable” to include tracking information on packaging material. The industry proposes to affix information to packaging/bag for socks (as “permanent” as the packaging itself).
- The sticker will include an **encrypted** facility code, a packaging date and a style code.
- This information is proprietary and must be kept private. ***Company confidentiality otherwise compromised.***

Tracking Label Solution Other Legwear Products

- According to current FTC guidelines, some hosiery products for children, including tights, and pantyhose, have permanent labels on them.
- It is “practicable” to include an encrypted facility code on those products which already contain labels.
- It is not, however, “practicable” to include a manufacturing or packaging date on the labels, since the labels are produced and then sewn in independently from both of these processes.

Tracking Label Solution Other Legwear Products

- The packaging information will be included, such as proposed in the case of socks, on the packaging material (along with the encrypted facility and style codes, as previously mentioned).

Recall Facilitation

- In the event of a recall, the legwear industry is committed to assisting retailers and other points of sale in identifying which products will need to be pulled from shelves.
- With the information on the packaging materials, retailers will be able to limit the scope of the inventory that will need to be pulled from shelves (by facility and style codes).
- Importers and domestic manufacturers will assist CPSC in tracking the product back to the manufacturer.

Conclusion

- In sum, goal of Section 103 is to provide for effective traceability of children's products.
- The legwear industry is eager to work with the CPSC to establish an operational tracking system for children's legwear products.
- With adequate time and sufficient guidance, we can ensure that the objective of Section 103 is met without creating undue cost and burden to the industry.

Contact Information

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