6b NC
lab

81

JAN 31 '74

Ms. Linda Silversmith
22 Harding Terrace
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Dear Ms. Silversmith:

This letter is in reply to your correspondence of December 20, 1973 addressed to the Administrator, Food and Drug Administration, in which you inquired whether FDA has the authority to require makers of bathroom fixtures to make readily available medicine cabinets that lock. Your letter was forwarded to our Commission for reply. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is an independent Federal regulatory agency whose primary purpose is to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products.

In regard to your specific question, the Commission has jurisdiction to promulgate safety standards for medicine cabinets if reasonably necessary to prevent or reduce an unreasonable risk of injury associated with that product.

If the Commission determines that medicine cabinets without locks present an unreasonable risk of injury, the Commission could commence a proceeding to develop a standard for medicine cabinets. I am forwarding your letter to our Executive Director for further study.

Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael A. Brown
General Counsel

AHSchoem:mli:1/30/74 Control No. 2616

ADVISORY OPINION

cc: Secretary
Executive Director
A. Schoem
GC Files
GC Chron

GC Reading

OFFICE
JAN 9 '74
CONS PRODUCT
SAFET MISSION

A0 A 81

22 Harding Terrace
Morristown, NJ 07960
201-267-5806
December 20, 1973

Administrator
Food and Drug Administration
Washington, DC

Dear Administrator:

I am writing to ask whether you have the jurisdiction to require - or a policy to encourage - makers of bathroom fixtures to make readily available medicine cabinets THAT LOCK.

A locking medicine cabinet would certainly be a helpful deterrent in keeping small children away from drugs; yet, this item is not obvious in showrooms or catalogs of bathroom fixtures. It would be particularly useful since not all drugs are required to be packaged in the new safety-lock bottle.

Sincerely,

Linda Silversmith

Linda Silversmith