UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

CPSC/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

2000 MAR -7 A 9:30

Memorandum

Date: MAR 6 2000

TO : The Commission
Sadye E. Dunn, Secretary

FROM : Michael S. Solender, General Counsel M.S.
Stephen Lemberg, Assistant General Counsel SL
Patricia M. Pollitzer, Attorney PMP

SUBJECT : Petition requesting rule declaring natural rubber latex a strong sensitizer

BALLOT VOTE due: MAR 14 2000

The Office of the General Counsel has determined that correspondence from Debi Adkins, editor of the Latex Allergy News, requesting that the Commission declare natural rubber latex ("NRL") and products containing it to be strong sensitizers should be docketed as a petition under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Ms. Adkins asserts that exposure to NRL can cause serious medical reactions for those who develop an allergy to it.

In accordance with the Commission directive on procedures for petitions (0605), the Office of the General counsel has drafted a notice for publication in the Federal Register inviting comments on the petition for a period of 60 days. The draft notice is attached. EXHR recommends that the Commission issue the notice.

Please indicate your vote on the following options.

I. Approve the draft Federal Register notice without change.

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: This document has not been reviewed or accepted by the Commission.
Initial mh Date 3/6/00

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared 3/6/00
No Mfrs/Prvtlbrs or Products Identified
Excepted
Firms Notified.

II. Approve the draft Federal Register notice with the following changes (please specify):

_____

_____

_____

_____ _____

Signature Date

III. Do not approve the draft Federal Register notice.

_____ _____

Signature Date

IV. Take other action (please specify):

_____

_____

_____

_____ _____

Signature Date

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Petition Requesting Rule Declaring Natural Rubber Latex a Strong Sensitizer

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission has received a petition from Debi Adkins, editor of Latex Allergy News, requesting that the Commission issue a rule declaring that natural rubber latex ("NRL") and products containing NRL are strong sensitizers under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act ("FHSA"). The Commission solicits written comments concerning the petition.

DATES: The Office of the Secretary should receive comments on the petition by [insert date 60 days after publication in the **Federal Register**].

ADDRESSES: Comments, preferably in five copies, on the petition should be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, telephone (301) 504-0800, or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Room 501, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments should be captioned "Petition HP 00-2, Petition on Natural Rubber Latex." A copy of the petition is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Reading Room, Room 419, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rockelle Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504-0800, ext. 1232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission has received correspondence from Debi Adkins, editor of Latex Allergy News, that requests the Commission to declare that natural rubber latex ("NRL") and products containing NRL are strong sensitizers under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act ("FHSA"). The petitioner asserts that a portion of the population has developed an allergy to NRL that can cause serious allergic reactions, even death. NRL may be in such consumer products as gloves, adhesives, shoes, balloons, pacifiers, and carpet backing, as well as many medical products. Ms. Adkins asks the Commission to add NRL and products containing NRL to its list of strong sensitizers so that these products would require labeling. The Commission is docketing the correspondence as a petition under provisions of the FHSA, 15 U.S.C. 1261-1277.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the petition by writing or calling the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-0800. A copy of the petition is also available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Commission's Public Reading Room, Room 419, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland.

Dated:

Sadye E. Dunn, Secretary
Consumer Product Safety Commission