



UNITED STATES  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS H. MOORE  
ON THE NOTICE OF STAY OF ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEAD CONTENT LIMITS FOR  
BICYCLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS  
June 19, 2009

From its inception, the Consumer Product Safety Commission focused its attention on bicycles. The bicycle was one of the earliest products for which the Commission issued mandatory regulations. At the time, bicycles ranked number one on the Commission's product hazard index and the agency determined that many of the injuries children and adults were sustaining on bicycles were attributable to mechanical and structural problems. Anything that could potentially affect the structural or mechanical integrity of children's bicycles would still be an issue of the highest concern at the agency.

I have been watching for some time now what appears to be a growing number of bicycle recalls involving cracking frames, breaking handlebars and stems, and breaking forks. There have been almost 35 in the last 8 years. Because these were voluntary recalls, our staff was not called upon to analyze the causes of the failures. Thus we do not know if there was a common flaw in these cases. Many of these bicycles were higher end models, and, therefore, likely lighter weight bikes made from composite materials. It may be that the lower amount of lead in these products had nothing whatsoever to do with their failures, but it is worrisome enough for me not to proceed to a reduction of lead in certain components of children's bicycles until all the necessary testing is done to ensure that the substitutes for lead do not compromise the structural or mechanical integrity of these bicycles. Therefore I am voting to approve a two-year stay of enforcement to give the bicycle industry additional time to do the development and testing work that will be required to resolve this issue. As a result of the stay all bicycles currently on the market (whether new or used) can be sold or otherwise distributed, new bicycles can continue to be manufactured, and repairs to bicycles can proceed as usual.