



*****INDUSTRY NEWS ALERT*****

THA DIRECTS CPSC LEGWEAR COALITION

On August 14, 2008, President Bush signed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), resulting in mandatory testing and certification of all socks and hosiery items to evidence conformity with all applicable consumer product safety standards. These tests are expensive, onerous and, ultimately, detract from the CPSC's ability to focus on products that truly pose threats for U.S. consumers. The more evidence that our hosiery industry can provide about the safety of its components, the more it can "test" out of the certification program. These measures will allow companies, and the CPSC, to focus resources on testing higher-risk sources. As we look forward to the New Year, a new Administration and a new Congress, we see a host of challenges – upcoming deadlines, additional oversight, activism from consumer protection groups pressing for enforcement and even more stringent regulations and legislation. However, these also represent opportunities for our industry to play an active role in shaping future policy.

Now is the time for our industry to band together to present pro-active, coherent solutions, or risk being defined as "part of the problem". Subsequently, **The Hosiery Association (THA)**, **The Hosiery Technology Center (HTC)** in association with **Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg (STR)** is launching the CPSC Legwear Coalition, a coordinated effort to advocate for the industry, both on the Administrative and Congressional levels.

The first goal of the Coalition will be to identify the sources of lead in legwear products, secure exemptions for products that meet CPSIA requirements or pose no risk to consumers. Establishing credibility as a partner in consumer safety will enable the Coalition to achieve other benefits for the industry, such as exemptions from tracking label requirements, participation in the compliance labeling program, and expansion of the list of products and materials that are exempt from flammability standards. A pro-active and engaged Coalition will also be positioned to anticipate and mitigate the effects of new requirements, whenever they emerge.

Your participation in this Coalition is critical. As other industry associations urge Congress for special treatment and exclusions from the various CPSIA requirements, the opportunities for our industry become more limited and the need for immediate action more urgent. Led by THA, the Coalition will include the most important participants in the industry and take advantage of the knowledge and experience of Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A., which will act as Federal lobbyists for the Coalition, and provide it with additional consulting and legal assistance.

For more information, please contact Sally Kay with The Hosiery Association, sally.kay@hosieryassociation.com, Dan St. Louis with the Hosiery Technology Center, sockman@legsource.com or Edward Steiner with Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg at esteiner@strtrade.com.

Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative.