



Child-Safe Packaging Group

Newsletter – September 2000

www.childsafepackaginggroup.com

News flash.....Publication of the new non-reclosables child safety standard now more urgent than ever!

A Standard for Non-Reclosable Packaging For Pharmaceuticals now more Urgent than Ever.....

The sad death of a three year old boy in Yorkshire, Yaqoob Lookman, has prompted much critical comment both in and out of the industry and re-emphasised the need for a speedy implementation of the current draft standard CEN TC 261.

Writing in *Packaging Magazine* (August 24th, 2000) Editor Ron Pidgeon said 'It is time for the industry to get its house in order and help prevent further poisoning accidents.'

James Robertson, a Staff Grade Paediatrician at Arrowe Park Hospital, Merseyside, said 'Parents do not keep medicines out of the reach of children and therefore child resistant packaging is a priority line of defence.'

And the West Yorkshire Coroner expressed his dissatisfaction with the packaging and indicated that he proposed to take the matter up with the Medicines Control Agency.

The Child-Safe Packaging Group has been campaigning for a standard of child resistance based upon child panel testing for non-reclosable packaging for pharmaceuticals for more than five years now. And, whilst there is a standard in sight, it is still awaiting publication and implementation.

All of the packaging associations are concerned and anxious to see the new standard's implementation.

The Institute of Packaging has pledged support to the Child-Safe Packaging Group. In an open letter, Chief Executive John Webb-Jenkins applauded the Group's efforts.

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INCPEN, the Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment, in its 1998 Code of Practice for Responsible Packaging said, in its section 3.3 Child Resistance, '*For goods regarded as hazardous, child resistant packaging should be considered. This is in addition to those applications required by legislation. Child resistance should not be claimed if it has not been properly tested and independently verified.*'

Research Commissioned and published by the Child-Safe Packaging Group – August 1995

In 1995 we subjected standard UK blister packs to child panel testing – the same procedure as is used in the US, Canada and Germany and will be used in Europe when the draft ISO standard CEN TC 261 becomes effective.

The results discredited totally claims of inherent child resistance for blister packs.

This testing was carried out by Burford Research Consultants.

The most notable outcomes were:

- 92.5% of the sample of 40 children accessed at least three tablets from the blister pack prior to demonstration
- 45% accessed all fifteen tablets, again prior to demonstration
- 90% after ten minutes testing, had accessed all fifteen tablets
- Only one child had accessed less than three tablets

The full text of the report is available on our website www.childsafepackaginggroup.com



To join the Child-Safe Packaging Group visit our websitewww.childsafepackaginggroup.com

The Child-Safe Packaging Group's Stated Objective is:

'To promote the specification, consideration and success of child resistant packaging for all products where ingestion or other contact could prove seriously distressing to a child.'

The definition of child resistant packaging is:

'Packaging that is difficult for children to open within a reasonable period but represents no difficulty for adults to use properly.'

The Child-Safe Packaging Group Representations.....

We sit on the INCPEN Ad Hoc Trade Association Group where, at three meetings per year, we are able to advance the benefits of the child resistant segment of the packaging industry. This forum consists of representatives of every industry using or being part of the packaging chain and a full list of participants can be seen on our website.

It was our representation on this group that enabled us to overcome opposition to INCPEN's inclusion of the need for child resistant packaging in its Code of Responsible Packaging Practice.

We are also represented on the Institute of Packaging's Environmental and Safety Common Interest Group and again the need for CR packaging is advanced in that forum during six meeting per year. A list of members of the forum is available on our website.

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A Comeback for the Packaging Standards Council.....

There are moves afoot by the Environmental and Safety Common Interest Group at the Institute of Packaging to re-finance and reinstate the Packaging Standards Council (PSC).

This can only be good news for the Child-Safe Packaging Group whose profound knowledge of CR packaging can only assist the new Packaging Standards Council in its advisory and self-regulatory activities.

'More to the point though, the existence of a self regulating body within the packaging industry can only assist in banishing those anomalies concerning attributed but untested child resistance that have plagued us for so long,' said Stephen Wilkins, Secretary of the CSPG.

End Note – New Research.....

The Group is in the process of piloting new research, which will examine consumer's perception of and use of child resistant packaging. But more importantly the perception consumers have of the potential danger of various sample products. This will clarify, prove true or prove false, a number of assertions which are presently, and have for many years been, made about child resistant packaging solutions.

The research has been piloted in Wrexham, North Wales, and, depending upon results and indications, will be rolled out nationally and produce results from which conclusions can be drawn with confidence of between 95% and 99%.