May 11, 2010

Dear Mr. Gale:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control is seeking your help in making sure that jewelry sold by your members complies with the provisions of the California Lead-Containing Jewelry Law (Health and Safety Code Sections 25214.1-25214.2). The issue is one of public safety, as exposure to lead can cause serious health effects ranging from behavioral effects to death. Lead-containing jewelry poses a particular concern because children are prone to placing jewelry in their mouths, which can result in lead absorption at dangerous levels.

California’s Lead-Containing Jewelry Law has strict provisions limiting the content of lead in jewelry for both children and adults, as well as jewelry used for body piercing. Anyone who manufactures, ships, sells or offers for sale or promotional purposes jewelry in the state must comply with these restrictions. Among other things, manufacturers or suppliers may have written certification or confirmatory testing showing their jewelry complies with the restrictions.

Please ensure that your members are not selling jewelry items that exceed state lead levels. One way to do so is to ask to see a certificate of compliance. Under California law, DTSC has the authority to inspect any establishment where jewelry is sold, and to conduct tests to determine the amount of lead in the items.

A fact sheet is attached and detailed information about California’s Lead-Containing Jewelry Law is available at [www.dtsc.ca.gov/LeadInJewelry.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LeadInJewelry.cfm). If you have additional questions, please call me at (916) 324-8304.

Kam Coveyou
Information Officer
California Department of Toxic Substances Control