



09 JUN 2016

**FDA ADVISORY**  
No. **2016-053**

**TO: PARENTS, TEACHERS AND CONSUMERS**

**SUBJECT: Back to School Reminders on Buying School Supplies for Children**

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) mandate is to ensure the safety of items for use of the general public. As such, for this incoming school year, the FDA is reminding the public to be more careful and to exercise caution when purchasing school supplies especially those that are used by very young children. These items include, but are not limited to, the following: paste, crayons, lead pencils, water color, glue stick/ glue, correction fluid, erasers, oil pastel, poster paints, chalk, and modelling clay. The following guidelines will help consumers be more informed when selecting their purchases:

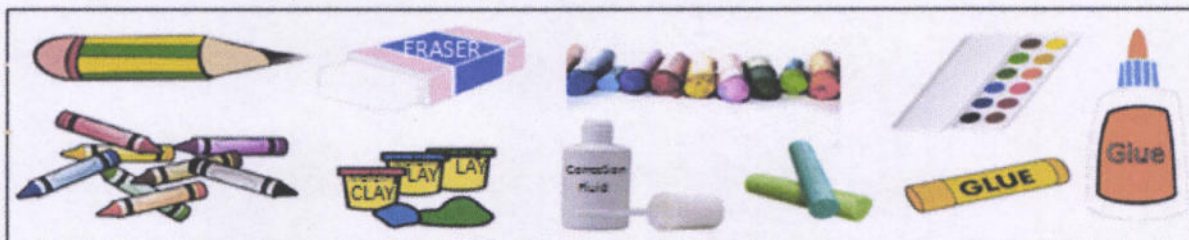


Figure 1. Examples of Some School Supplies. Photo Credits from Google and www.clipartpanda.com

- Be sure to read the labels of the school supplies.** Bear in mind the safety precautions on the use of school supplies. Take note of the name and address of the manufacturer, distributor and importer responsible for placing the school supply in the market. Be aware of warning or hazard symbols that may appear on the packaging, as well as instructions to follow in case of emergencies regarding the misuse of said product.

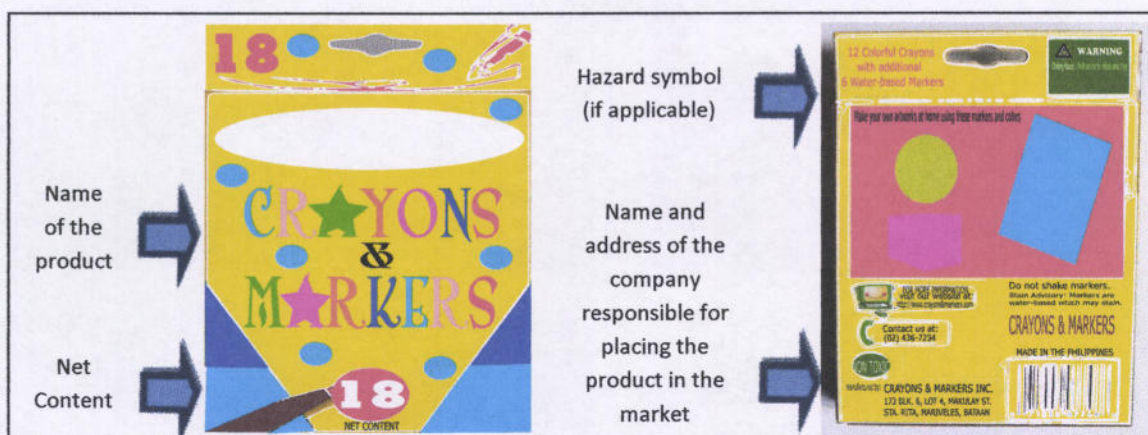


Figure 2. An Example of a Compliant Label According to Existing Rules and Regulations. (Front and Back)



2. **Choose school supplies suitable for your children.** In general, school supplies are supposed to be safe for children of all ages. Although in some cases, a number of school supplies can pose health hazards such as choking from removable parts like erasers on pencils, and ingestion of glue and paints. Thus, it is recommended that children be under adult supervision whenever they are using school supplies.
3. **Periodically examine school supplies for breakage or wear that may cause injury or other risk to the health and safety of the child. In such cases, discard them immediately.**
4. **Always buy school supplies from reputable retailers or outlets.** This will ensure the quality and safety of products. It will also guarantee that in cases of accidents or adverse health effects, the consumer may opt to contact the retailer or choose to return the product as mandated by Republic Act (R.A.) 7394 otherwise known as “The Consumer Act of the Philippines”.
5. **Immediately consult a physician in cases of accidental ingestion or any adverse health effects while using school supplies.**
6. **Contact the Food and Drug Administration if your children encounter safety and/or health-related problems.** To make a report to the FDA, go to the FDA website, click *eReport* in the upper-right corner of the home page and provide all requested information.

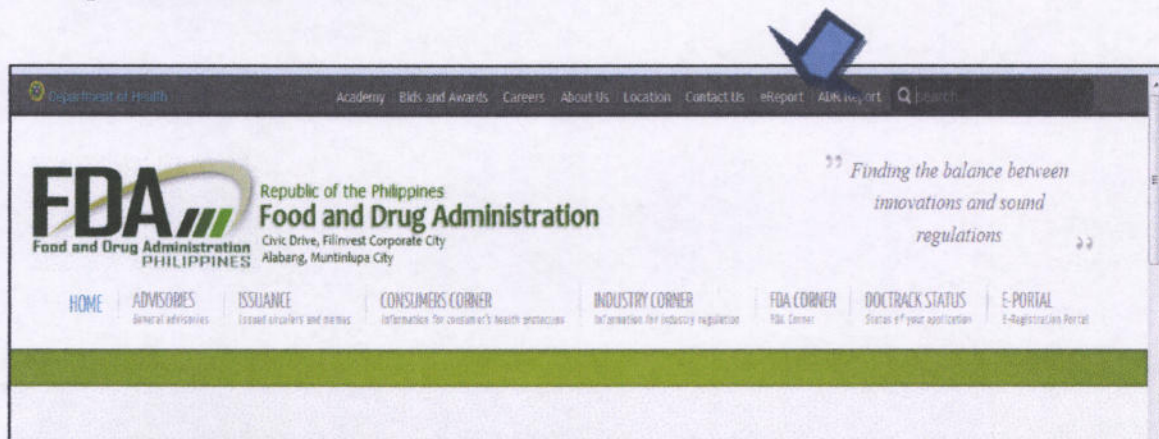


Figure 3. FDA Website Home Page

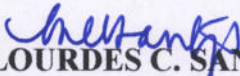
7. **Consumers are encouraged to browse the FDA website (<http://www.fda.gov.ph>) to keep abreast regarding school supply-related updates.** The FDA website publishes advisories for the awareness of the general public regarding relevant issues, including concerns on school supply materials that may pose health related problems.

For additional information and inquiries, consumers may send an e-mail to [info@fda.gov.ph](mailto:info@fda.gov.ph). Everyone is encouraged to report to FDA any suspicious activity or school supplies in the market through any of the following channels:

1. FDA’s e-Report
2. Send an e-mail to [report@fda.gov.ph](mailto:report@fda.gov.ph)
3. Contact FDA at (02) 857-1984

This advisory serves a year-round reminder and should be practiced to ensure the safety of the consumers.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

  
**MARIA LOURDES C. SANTIAGO, MSc, MM**  
OIC, Director General

DTN: 20160511103422

