



FDA ADVISORY

No. 2016-146

06 DEC 2016

TO: GENERAL CONSUMING PUBLIC

SUBJECT: Public Health Advisory on Lead-Cored Wick Candles

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through the Center for Cosmetics Regulation and Research (CCRR) advises the public against the purchase and use of all candles with wicks containing lead, candles in metal containers that contain lead, and wicks sold for candle-making that contain lead as an imminent hazard to the public health.

The purpose of a wick is to deliver fuel (wax) to the flame. Acting like a fuel pump, the wick draws the liquefied wax up into the flame to burn. Different wick sizes allow for different amounts of fuel to be drawn into the flame. All wicks consist of a bundle of fibers that are twisted, braided or knitted together. The metal-core wicks sometimes found in candles are typically **zinc- or tin-core wicks**. They are most often used in container and votive candles and votive to keep the wick upright when the surrounding wax liquefies.

In 2002, the Australian Government issued Consumer Protection No. 7 of 2002 which imposed a permanent ban on candles with wicks that contain greater than 0.06% lead by weight, and candle wicks containing greater than 0.06% lead by weight. **Lead-cored** wicks were also banned from the U.S marketplace in 2003 on the grounds of continued sale of these items that violated the provisions of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Additionally, the CPSC warned consumers of the potential dangers from exposure to candles containing lead-cored wicks that could inflict lead poisoning hazard to young children.

Public health experts have confirmed that lead emissions from any source pose health risk and can result in increased blood lead levels in unborn babies, babies, and young children. As a lead-cored wick candle burns, some of the lead may vaporize and be released into the air. This airborne lead may be inhaled and may deposit onto floors, furniture, and other surfaces in the room where children may be exposed to it. Other toxic effects from exposure to lead emitted from lead-cored wick candles, includes neurological damage, delayed mental and physical development, attention and learning deficiencies.

In this regard, the public is enjoined to assist FDA in monitoring this concern by reporting to FDA any adverse effects experienced when using these products. Reports can be made through any of the following:



1. FDA's e-report (www.fda.gov.ph)

Reports can be sent to FDA via the e-Report section found in the upper right corner of the FDA website. By clicking e-report, another page will appear where you will find the form that must be accomplished (refer to Figure 1).

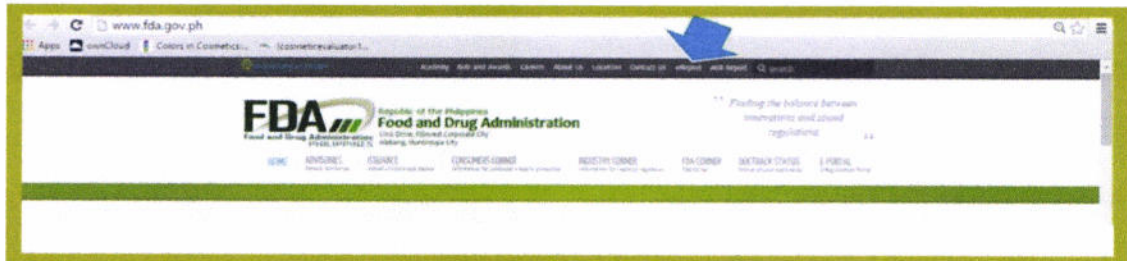


Figure 1. e-Report Section of the FDA Website

2. Send an email to report@fda.gov.ph
3. Contact the FDA Center for Cosmetics Regulation and Research (CCRR) Customer Service Hotline at (02) 857-1984.

Dissemination of the information to all is requested.


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DTN: 20161006142654

