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## Chronology of Restrictions on Vinyl Children's Products

June 1996 – U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issues a lead hazard warning for young children exposed to vinyl (PVC) mini blinds. Major retailers removed from their shelves. Manufacturers agreed to label lead containing mini blinds. Greenpeace exposed violators of this agreement.

July 1996 – Greenpeace formally asks all major toy makers, licensees and retailers to identify which of their products/toys contain PVC. Toy industry unanimously responds by referring Greenpeace to the Toy Manufacturers of America (TMA).

October 1996 – Greenpeace meets with the International Council of Toy Industries (ICTI) where toy industry executives cite the chemical industry (Vinyl Institute) to defend the use of vinyl but refuse to provide any information about which toys are made of vinyl.

December 1996 – Greenpeace meets with ICTI again where industry executives continue to rely on chemical industry material and refuse to provide any information about the ingredients in their products or which toys are made of vinyl.

September 1997 – Greenpeace releases test results finding hazardous phthalate additives in children's vinyl toys purchased in 17 countries.

October 1997 – Greenpeace releases test results finding toxic levels of lead and cadmium additives in children's vinyl products purchased in 11 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

August 1998 – Nike announces its plans to eliminate PVC from its products. Nike was following in the footsteps of companies such as IKEA, the Body Shop and LEGO, who were among the first to phase out PVC.

November 1998 – Greenpeace joins other environmental, consumer and public health groups in a formal petition to the CPSC, requesting a phase out of vinyl used in children's products.

December 1998 – The CPSC announced a voluntary withdrawal by some manufacturers of teething toys and rattles containing one additive (DINP), requested retailers withdraw these products from their shelves and suggested that parents throw them out. The CPSC announced plans to convene a Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel to recommend next steps on DINP in vinyl infant products. The CPSC also files a Federal Register notice urging toy makers to “eliminate lead in consumer products.”

September 1999 – General Motors announces it will eliminate PVC from its auto components.

December 1999 – The European Union passes an emergency ban on the use six additives in toys intended for the mouth for children under three years old. The European Parliament begins consideration of a permanent ban on these products and a labeling of other vinyl products.

December 1999 – Toy maker Mattel announces it will initiate research into manufacturing infant toys out of organically based material.

July 2000 – The European Commission releases its Green Paper on PVC, which begins a debate on the need for European wide restrictions on PVC. The Green Paper assesses various environmental and health issues related to PVC.

April 2001 – Eighteen countries around the world now have restrictions on the use of hazardous additives in PVC toys in force.

May 2001 – Greenpeace releases new findings of hazardous additives in childcare products and home furnishings.