

Statement from Boy Scouts of America, National Office

A routine test of Boy Scouts of America products has shown that one component of the Cub Scout Immediate Recognition Kit, No. 01804, contains unacceptable amounts of lead.

The kit contains a decoration that is worn on a boy's uniform shirt, not typically placed in the mouth, ingested, or in contact with the skin. No illness or injury related to product use has been reported to the BSA or the supplier, Kahoot Products Inc.

The BSA has directed its Scout shops and retailers to remove the product from their shelves immediately and return it to us.

The supplier, Kahoot, has called for a voluntary consumer recall of all kits and has urged those who have purchased the item, since the year 2000, to remove the recognition totem from their child's possession until the details of the recall have been worked out with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The BSA is posting this recall notice on its Web sites and will place consumer alerts in its member magazines. We appreciate the media's cooperation in disseminating news of these actions.

The Boy Scouts of America's highest priority is the safety of its youth members and their families. We apologize for any concern this matter has caused and will continue to do everything possible to help ensure the health and safety of all those who participate in our programs.

Q&A

Q1. How many of the recalled products have been purchased? How long have they been manufactured?

A1. The test sample was conducted on the most recent shipment. We do not know if previous lots had a similar problem, so the recall notice encompasses all kits, whenever purchased. The BSA has received no report of illness or injury regarding this item. This was the first product to show any problem, and similar tests of other products also have shown no such problems. The BSA and Kahoot Products are researching whether that one item, the entire lot, or the total manufacture of the kit was affected. We will respond appropriately depending on the distribution level of items that will be subject to recall.

Some 20,000 kits containing 10 decorations per kit have been sold annually for the last seven years.

Q2. How was this problem discovered?

A2. This test was part of a routine inspection of a large group of BSA products and apparel.

Q3. Where was the product manufactured?

A3. China. This product was the first to show any problem. Similar tests of products received directly from China have detected no problems.

Q4. How often are BSA products tested?

A4. We recently began requiring all BSA products to be tested for compliance with lead paint regulations. This product is the first of 94 items tested to show excessive lead content. Consumer safety concerns, not any report of illness or injury, prompted our testing initiative.

Q5. Is it true that lead was in the paint?

A5. Yes. Lead was detected in yellow and blue paint used in the manufacture.

Q6. Why have you not tested these products before?

A6. We require and expect that all products supplied to the BSA conform to all rules, regulations, and laws of the United States. Our testing is a result of our diligence to ensure our suppliers comply with these regulations.

Q7. What will be the process for replacing the kits?

A7. Further instructions will be provided when the recall is announced. For now, parents should ensure that the totems are removed from their children's possession. At this time, our efforts are concentrating on the safety of Scouts and their families.

Q8. How many BSA products have been tested?

A8. All other products sourced directly to the BSA from offshore have been tested and have passed inspection. Our domestic suppliers are responsible for testing the products they have sourced.

Q9. I thought all BSA merchandise was manufactured in the United States. Now you are going to China?

A9. Our supplier, Kahoot, is an American company. The BSA seeks out the best suppliers of merchandise, and in today's economy, the best suppliers may source some or all of their products from foreign manufacturers.

Q10. What can I do to ensure my child's safety?

A10. Consider the supplier. This is the BSA's first product recall in several years, and the first one of this magnitude, but we are not aware of any illness or injury resulting from the use of this product. If you are concerned about your child's safety in connection with the present matter, consult your doctor or other health care professional.

Q11. Will there be more recalls?

A11. We can promise only that we will remain vigilant in maintaining product quality and safety. Again, we are not aware of any illness or injury resulting from the use of this product.

Q12. How can I trust that other BSA products are safe?

A12. Our customers can be confident that we will remain vigilant in maintaining product quality and safety. Once again, we are not aware of any illness or injury resulting from the use of this product.

Inquiries regarding this recall should be directed to Kahoot Productions, Inc., at 770-522-2921. Additionally, Kahoot is working to establish a toll-free consumer hotline for parents and other concerned parties, which will post on www.scouting.org under the Cub Scout link.