Poison Prevention Packaging Act

Enacted in 1970, the PPPA (available in PDF), requires a number of household substances to be packaged in child-resistant packaging. The packaging required by the PPPA must be designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for children under five years of age to open within a reasonable time, and not difficult for normal adults to use properly. For the sake of the elderly and handicapped who might have difficulty opening such containers, the Act provides that a regulated product available for purchase on store shelves may be packaged in one non-complying size provided it carries a warning that it is not recommended for use in households with children, and provided that the product is also supplied in complying popular size packages. Regulated prescription drugs may be dispensed in non-child-resistant packaging upon the specific request of the prescribing doctor or the patient. The Environmental Protection Agency regulates economic poisons, such as pesticides. Since the regulation has been in effect, there have been remarkable declines in reported deaths from ingestions by children of toxic household products including medications.

**PPPA Regulations: Title 16 CFR parts 1700 through 1702**

- Part 1700: Poison prevention packaging
- Part 1701: Statements of policy and interpretation
- Part 1702: Petitions for exemptions from Poison Prevention Packaging Act requirements; petition procedures and requirements

**Business Guidance**

- Poison Prevention Act Business Guidance
- Certification Requirements Under the PPPA: Frequently Asked Questions
- Drugs dispensed for household use in clinical trials
- Prescription Drugs and Physician Samples

**Further Information on the PPPA**

- Presentations from the Understanding the Poison Prevention Packaging Act workshop held on March 16, 2005
- Child-Resistant and Senior-Friendly Packaging Guide