American Latex Allergy Association

Your ACTION is needed!

July 31, 2003

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7-30-03

Your Action is Needed!

There are two issues under consideration that are**important**to Natural Rubber Latex Allergy.

1. The proposed wording for ASTM standards to place restrictions on the coloring of natural rubber latex and synthetic gloves
2. The proposed prohibition of latex gloves from food services

To submit written comments on these topics please use the Addresses listed below.

The ASTM International is a non-profit organization that provides a forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems and services. It is made up of more than 20,000 members representing producers, users ultimate consumers, and representatives of government and academia. The documents they develop serve as a basis for manufacturing, procurement and regulatory activities.
For more information on the ASTM see:**www.astm.org**[1]

The ASTM is currently in the color proposal draft process. The standardization of glove colors could improve patient and employee safety and prevent possible errors due to look-a-like gloves.

The American Latex Allergy Association strongly urges its members and those interested in natural rubber latex allergy to write letters of support for this important safety issue.

1. Color (proposed draft)
ASTM is discussing whether to include restrictions on glove colors in upcoming revisions of medical glove standards. Color restrictions would allow individuals to distinguish between latex and synthetic gloves.

X.X. To facilitate the rapid identification of natural rubber latex gloves by those who must avoid their use due to latex allergy, glove coloration should be restricted as follows:
X.X.1. Natural rubber latex glove coloration shall be limited to the buff, beige and tan tones reflective of their historical appearance. This limitation also applies to natural rubber latex/synthetic blends. Alternatively, the presence of latex may be distinguished by so designating on each individual glove.
X.X.2. Synthetic gloves must be readily distinguished from natural rubber latex

It is proposed that the new ASTM standard on gloves for use in food services shall contain wording similar to the following:

It has been demonstrated that allergens can be transferred to foods when natural rubber latex gloves are worn during food preparation. To avoid the risk of reactions by latex allergic individuals who consume such foods, latex gloves shall be prohibited from use in the preparation or handling of foods.

For more information see:
www.fda.gov[2]
www.fda.gov/cdrh[3]
www.cfsan.fda.gov[4]
www.foodsafety.gov[5]

Individuals, who wish to express their opinions, provide additional data or relate patient or employee experiences relevant to either or both of these topics may address their comments to:

Addresses

FDA:
Dr. David W Feigal HFZ-001
Director CDRH
FDA
9200 Corporate Blvd.
Rockville MD 20850
301-827-7975
dwf@cdrh.fda.gov[6]

Dr. Chiu Lin HFZ- 420
Chief Device Evaluations
FDA
9200 Corporate Blvd.
Rockville MD 20850
301-443-8913
cxl@cdrh.fda.gov[7]

(Food only): Joseph A. Levitt Esq
Director, FDA
Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
200 C Street, S.W.
Room 6815
Washington, DC 20204
301-436-1600
joseph.levitt@cfsan.fda.gov[8]

OSHA:
Dr. Richard Fairfax, Director
Directorate of Enforcement Program
DOL/OSHA
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington DC 20210
202-693-2100

NIOSH:

ASTM:

Kok-Kee Hon
ASTM Chairman D11
6324 Meetinghouse Way
Alexandria, VA 22312 1718
KKHON@aol.com[11]

Wava Truscott, Ph.D.
Director, Scientific Affairs & Clinical Education
Kimberly-Clark Health Care
1400 Holcomb Bridge Rd 200/5
Roswell, GA 30076
770-587-8447
wtruscott@kcc.com[12]

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Reprinted from

American Latex Allergy Association

P.O. Box 198
Slinger, WI 53086
Phone: 262-677-9707 1-888-97-ALERT
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