

## **Barnes & Noble, Inc. Vendor and Product Compliance Program FAQs**

### **What safety testing is required by Barnes & Noble?**

Barnes & Noble expects suppliers to provide products that meet all applicable and required safety standards. Suppliers are responsible for knowing all required safety standards for their product, including but not limited to CPSIA; and ensuring their product complies with those standards.

Manufacturers providing proprietary product to Barnes & Noble or any of its subsidiaries must contact the buyer for specific product safety testing requirements.

### **If we have submitted the previous CPSIA Certification, do we need to sign this new certification form?**

Yes. The new Vendor Compliance Certification program supersedes the previous CPSIA compliance form. The new certification covers a broader range of product and compliance standards, including the Barnes & Noble Vendor Code of Conduct. In that connection, all Barnes & Noble vendors must submit a completed and signed Vendor Compliance Certification form.

### **We do not produce children's products. Do we still need to submit a certification form?**

Yes, you must still provide a Certification form. Under the new Vendor and Product Compliance Program, Barnes & Noble requires vendors to certify that all products they have or will provide to Barnes & Noble comply or will comply with applicable safety requirements for that product. For example, candles are not children's products but candle suppliers must certify that their products comply or will comply with the specific safety requirements applicable to candles.

### **I am a distributor and do not manufacture products supplied to Barnes & Noble. Do I still need to provide a Vendor Compliance Certification?**

Yes. The Vendor Compliance Certification addresses product compliance but also addresses compliance with the Barnes & Noble Vendor Code of Conduct. In that connection, distributors must also provide a Vendor Compliance Certification form.

**My products are supplied to Barnes & Noble through a distributor. Do I still need to provide a Vendor Compliance Certification?**

Yes. As the manufacturer of products that we are selling, you are accountable for ensuring that your products are in compliance with all applicable laws, standards or rules, and must provide a Vendor Compliance Certification to Barnes & Noble.

**What is the CPSIA?**

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), along with other directives and amendments, enacted new requirements related to lead paint, lead content, phthalates and tracking labels for products designed or intended primarily for children twelve years old or younger (“Children’s Products”). For your reference, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission “CPSC”) has developed an informational website for the CPSIA, which you can view at <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/cpsia.html>.

**Isn’t there a Stay of Enforcement in place? Do I still need a GCC?**

While there is a Stay of Enforcement (“Stay”) by CPSIA until February 10, 2011 for testing and certification of certain children’s products, retailers are still prohibited from selling products that are not in compliance with CPSIA. To that extent, we require assurances from our suppliers that children’s products they supply to us do indeed comply with CPSIA; and that regulated non-children’s products comply with applicable safety requirements. At this time, we expect our vendors to have a reasonable testing program in place with sufficient information on hand so that, **upon request by Barnes & Noble**, a complete and accurate GCC for a given product will be provided immediately.

If any Children’s Products supplied to or manufactured for us by you do not meet the CPSIA new requirements, you must still notify us immediately so that we can remove them from our stores and inventory.

**We only supply/manufacture ordinary books. Do I still need a GCC form?**

While the CPSC has confirmed that CMYK inks and paper are exempt from the CPSIA lead requirements, there are other book components that still must comply, such as film lamination and foil stamping, among others. In that connection, Barnes & Noble requires assurances from suppliers that products they supply to us -- even ordinary children’s books -- are in compliance with CPSIA. Per the CPSC, component testing is part of a reasonable testing program and is sufficient to confirm compliance with CPSIA. Therefore, In lieu of a GCC for each specific title, Barnes & Noble will accept your company statement certifying that all ordinary children’s books provided by you

are in compliance with CPSIA based on the reasonable testing program you have in place. We consider ordinary books as hardcover (with or without jacket), perfect bound or saddle-stitched books with no add-on feature.

Ordinary books intended for adult readers do not require certification.

### **I do not think my product requires a Tracking Label.**

The CPSIA specifically mandates that all Children's Products contain requisite tracking labels, and if you supply any Children's Products to us, such products must meet these requirements. Suppliers are responsible for including all required information on the tracking labels for their product. Click here for more information on the CPSIA requirements on tracking labels. <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/sect103.html>.

### **What are the CPSIA lead and phthalate limits?**

Please link below for the text of the legislation, summaries of relevant provisions and FAQs regarding Children's Products Containing Lead; Lead Paint Rule; Products Containing Certain Phthalates, Mandatory Third Party Testing for Certain Children's Products; Tracking Labels for Children's Products; etc.:  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/legislation.html>.

### **How do I find an accredited third party testing lab?**

A list of accredited third party testing labs can be found on the CPSC website:  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/labapplist.aspx>

### **Who can I contact with questions about your product compliance requirements?**

You may contact Nanette Delumpa-Roach, Director, Product Compliance at [ndelumpa-roach@bn.com](mailto:ndelumpa-roach@bn.com)

**I am unable to send a PDF of the completed and signed form? How should I send this form to you?**

You may fax your signed forms to 212-727-4828.

You may also mail your signed forms to:  
Barnes & Noble, Inc.,  
122 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10011  
Attn: Product Compliance Department