



**THE ART & CREATIVE
MATERIALS INSTITUTE, INC.**

1280 Main St., P. O. Box 479

Hanson, MA 02341

Tel. (781) 293-4100

Fax (781) 294-0808

Deborah M. Fanning, CAE, Executive Vice President

debbief@acminet.org

Deborah S. Gustafson, Associate Director

debbieg@acminet.org

CONTACT: Deborah Fanning or Deborah Gustafson

Tel: 781-293-4100, Fax: 781-294-0808

**Statement by The Art & Creative Materials Institute (ACMI)
On Art Material Safety
During Poison Prevention Week
by Deborah Fanning, CAE, Executive Vice President**

ACMI-Certified Art Materials Can Be Used Safely

BOSTON, March 12, 2009 – During Poison Prevention Week, March 15-21, 2009, ACMI would like parents, caregivers, art educators, artists and others to know that they can use ACMI-certified art materials safely. ACMI is a member of the Poison Prevention Week Council which sponsors Poison Prevention Week each year to focus attention on the safe use of all consumer products, including art materials. ACMI believes that safety of consumer goods depends on a partnership of manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, and consumers, both adult and children. Manufacturers and retailers need to make and sell products that are non-toxic for young consumers and properly labeled with any cautionary warnings and safe use instructions for adult users. Government agencies need to help industry produce such products and warn consumers of any unsafe products. Parents need to supervise the use of consumer products by children, and adult consumers need to read all labels to see if there are possible hazards associated with adult products.

Why ACMI's Certification Program is an Effective Safeguard

For over 69 years, ACMI has provided consumers with a program to certify children's art materials as non-toxic and expanded its program in 1982 to include certification of adult art materials, ensuring that health warning labels are affixed where appropriate on these adult products. All children's materials must be non-toxic and cannot have any health warnings. Today, the toxicology portion of that program is directed by Woodhall Stopford, MD, MSPH, of Duke University Medical Center Occupational Health Service.

(continued)



LOOK FOR THESE SEALS.....

Products evaluated through the ACMI Certification Program undergo a rigorous toxicological review that takes the following into account:

- All three routes of exposure (ingestion, inhalation and absorption)
- Use of the product by a small child
- Each ingredient and its quantity, including every color in a product line
- Possible adverse interaction with other ingredients
- The product's size and packaging
- Potential acute and chronic harm to any part of the human body
- Possible allergic reaction
- How a product is commonly used and misused
- U.S. national and state art material labeling regulations

ACMI also has a Toxicological Advisory Board composed of leading toxicological experts in the United States. They review the criteria used by ACMI's Toxicologist and act as a review board on issues of toxicity. Current members of the Toxicological Advisory Board are Elaina Kenyon, PhD, Toxicologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; James C. Lamb IV, Ph.D., Principal Scientist & Center Director of Exponent; Dr. John H. Mennear, Consultant Scientist in Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Thomas B. Starr, Ph.D., Principal, TBS Associates.

Parents, educators and others are urged to read the labels on all art material products to understand which have been evaluated by ACMI and which are non-toxic or need special handling to avoid possible health hazards from misuse. Look for the ACMI Seals so you will know the product has been evaluated by a qualified toxicologist for both acute and chronic hazards. All products evaluated by ACMI will bear a conformance statement to ASTM D 4236 as required by law and one of the ACMI Seals. Products bearing the AP Seal are certified in a toxicological evaluation by a medical expert to contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or injurious to humans, including children, or to cause acute or chronic health problems. Products bearing the CL Seal are certified to be properly labeled in a program of toxicological evaluation by a medical expert for any known health risks and with information on the safe and proper use of these materials. This CL Seal appears on only 15% of the adult art materials in ACMI's Certification Program and on none of the children's materials. Remember to purchase only products with the ACMI AP Seal for children in grade six or lower or any persons who cannot read or understand the safety labeling on product packages. This will ensure that you are using only non-toxic products with young children and physically or mentally challenged individuals.

The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. is an international trade association and the leading authority on art and craft materials. ACMI's more than 200 members are art and craft materials manufacturers. ACMI seeks to create and maintain a positive environment for art, craft and other creative materials usage; to promote safety in these materials; and to serve as an information and service resource on such products. In these ways, ACMI provides leadership, guidance, and education to all to achieve greater participation in art, craft and other creative activities.

Note: This press release is available electronically in a Microsoft Word document. Please send your request to receive this press release electronically to debbieg@acminet.org.