

# To the Point

## Talking Points for Manufacturers

October 2007

### Consumer Product Safety

The safety of our products is an obligation and responsibility we give the highest priority. Our economic viability depends in large part on the public's confidence in our products. Manufacturers devote enormous resources toward product safety. We understand that effective regulation and oversight by federal regulatory agencies such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for all products – whether produced domestically or imported – are critical and complementary to our long-established, self-imposed voluntary standards.

- The NAM is committed to consumer and product safety. We believe more resources are needed for the CPSC to effectively carry out its mission.
- While reauthorizing and restructuring the CPSC is a laudable goal, key provisions in S. 2045 could have unintended consequences.
- Some provisions may harm the voluntary cooperation that exists between CPSC and industry.
- There are often situations where companies, in conjunction with CPSC staff, report problems. Not every report of a potential problem results or should result in a recall.
- The bill ends all protection from disclosure of irrelevant but prejudicial information and could unduly alarm consumers and harm companies.
- S. 2045 makes state attorneys general enforcers of federal product safety laws, “balkanizing” consumer product safety rules. Consistently enforced, national product safety standards are needed.
- The proposed penalty increases and criminal provisions will promote litigation rather than cooperation.
- Making the CPSC an adjudicator of employee-employer complaints will not enhance product safety.

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These talking points are designed for communications with members of Congress. Specific company examples will give these points greater emphasis. For more information on this issue, visit our website at [www.nam.org](http://www.nam.org).