

Lucideon's tableware safety guide

**new edition enumerates updated
worldwide regulations**

Lucideon, the international provider of materials development, testing and assurance, has published a revised edition of its worldwide regulations and standards guide for the safe use of ceramic and glass tableware in contact with food. The comprehensive handbook indexes the regulations or standards for over 80 countries and economic areas, listing the relevant test methods and metal migration limits in an easy-to-use table. The guide is primarily a tool for ceramic, glass and enamel ware manufacturers. However, exporters, importers, retailers, glaze or colour manufacturers and testing facilities will also find it a useful resource to ensure their products conform to international standards and regulations. Electronic and/or hard copies of the guide are now available, priced £595. To purchase a copy or for further information, please contact Joanne Dawson, Environmental Information Scientist: +44 (0)1782 764245 or joanne.dawson@lucideon.com.



Coloured glazes applied to ceramic, glass and enamel ware may contain heavy metals such as lead or cadmium that could be released to varying degrees. The amount of migration from the ware to food is dependent on the: quality of the glaze, temperature at which the ceramic was fired, type of food and duration of product contact. Compliance testing of decorated ceramic and glass tableware must be carried out for metals that are used in some

colours and glazes. This is done to establish not only safety, but conformity with the legally allowed maximum levels of migration and to ensure continued consumer protection. ■

Source: Tableware International

Chilean importer seeks Indian suppliers of accessories

Embassy of India, Santiago, Chile has been approached by a Chilean importer who is looking for Indian suppliers of fabric remnants and patchworks, like Pom Pom Swag, Leather Tassel, Cotton Tassel, Vintage Coins, Hamsa and Textile bags.

Contact: Viviana García, Commercial Officer, Embassy of India, Santiago, Email: com@embajadaindia.cl

N.B.: EPCH doesn't take any responsibility for credit worthiness of the firm

Shopper Sentiment Index

substantial with optimistic Shoppers

The combination of an improved labor market, more job stability and lower gas prices resulted in the highest Q1 jump in shopper sentiment since 2011, according to consumer analytics firm IRI MarketPulse. "The fact that this year's Shopper Sentiment Index spike is so substantial, and that the increase spans all age groups and all of the measures that comprise the index, is cause for optimism among CPG [consumer product group] marketers," said Susan Viamari, editor of Thought Leadership, IRI.



The first quarter Shopper Sentiment Index hit 138. Against the benchmark score of 100, the result suggests consumers have become less price driven, more loyal to preferred brands and feel more able to maintain their lifestyles compared to Q1 2011, according to IRI.

The survey found even Millennials – whose sentiment usually falls lowest on the index – were more optimistic during the first quarter. One-third of them said the economy had improved in the prior six months, and 28% expected more improvement in the six months ahead. But they are not without concern: 25% struggle to pay for groceries and 26% do more bargain shopping than they did a year ago. They are in good company. Among all consumers, 29% of consumers said 50% or more of their most recent shopping basket was bought on deal, compared with 34% in last year's first quarter.

"CPG marketers should find relief in the continued improvement in shopper attitudes, but sharp withdrawal of value-focused programs would be a mistake," said Viamari. "Conservative mindsets still prevail and, in the near term, purchase behavior and loyalty will be strongly influenced by products and programs that meet or exceed consumers' expectations for great quality and strong results at a reasonable price point." *Source: Home & Textiles Today*