

February 15, 2008

Via UPS Next Day Air

Joseph DeCicco
State Agreements and Industrial Safety Branch
Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs
11545 Rockville Pike
Mail Stop T-8 F5
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Follow-Up to Telephone Conference Concerning Importation of Irradiated Gemstones

Dear Mr. DeCicco:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me concerning irradiated gemstones. You will recall that during our conversation, I asked you about the scenario in which irradiated gemstones would be imported into the United States to a licensed party, appropriately tested for radiation, exported to be set into jewelry, and reimported into the United States in finished jewelry form. Specifically, I asked whether NRC would require that the finished jewelry be reimported to a licensed party despite the fact that the loose stones had previously been imported to and tested by a licensed party. You explained that it is NRC's position that once irradiated stones have been released to a licensed party and appropriately tested, they are no longer subject to NRC regulation. You explained that the purpose of the regulation is to be sure that the products are traceable and have been tested for safety. Once that is completed, the stones need not go to a licensed facility again unless the stones are retreated.

As you know, this is not clearly outlined in the regulations. Because of this, our client (a jewelry retailer) is hesitant to import finished jewelry to other than a licensed party. Would you be so kind as to provide us with some sort of written confirmation that in the above-described scenario, the finished jewelry would not need to be reimported to a licensed party if the loose stones were previously imported to and tested by a licensed party? We thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,


Claudia A. Lewis-Eng

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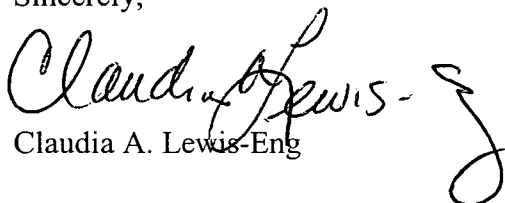
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