

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why Is There Lead In Paulson® Gaming Chips?

In 1965, Paul-Son Gaming Supplies, Inc., the predecessor of Gaming Partners International USA, Inc. (“GPI”), used a lead containing mineral to produce a gaming chip which had a similar weight and feel to coin money as was common with traditional clay gaming chips. Smaller amounts of lead were also present in pigments used to produce some of the colors. As of January 1998, Paul-Son had reformulated almost all of the colors used in its gaming chips to their lead content to less than 1%. Since the merger of Paul-Son, The Bud Jones Company and Bourgogne et Grasset in 2002, GPI has continued reformulating Paulson gaming chips and current production has less than 100 ppm lead.

2. Is It Safe To Play With Paulson Gaming Chips?

Over 200,000,000 Paulson® gaming chips have been produced in over forty years with no report of any adverse health effects. GPI recently retained a leading international engineering and scientific consulting firm to evaluate exposure to lead while playing Blackjack with Paulson chips. The data produced during the evaluation showed the chip did not produce any risk of inhaling airborne lead. In addition, while amounts of lead were found on fingertips of persons handling the chips, the levels were considered to pose no significant risk to players or dealers even using very conservative assumptions. For example, because the players and dealer in the test were not allowed to touch their clothing or handle any object besides the chips or wash their hands, the testing likely overestimated exposure.

3. What Are the Effects of Lead Exposure?

Potential health effects of lead depend on exposure (both frequency, concentration, and the amount). **The mere presence or proximity to an item containing lead poses no adverse exposure risks.** According to the United States Department of Health Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), lead can affect the nervous system and can cause weakness in fingers, wrists, or ankles. Lead exposure can also increase blood pressure and anemia. High levels of exposure can severely damage brain and kidneys, even causing death.

4. Is My Child At Risk?

Paulson gaming chips are intended for use by adults in gambling games. As with many commercial and household products and supplies, the chips are not intended to be used or handled by children.

5. What Is The Lead Content Of My Chips?

Since 1998, the lead levels in Paulson® chips have been reduced and current production contains less than 100 ppm lead. Most customers will have chips with a range of lead levels reflecting the time that the chips were originally purchased. Significantly, however, the test conducted by Exponent showed that exposure to lead using Paulson® gaming chips with the original lead mineral poses no significant risk to players and dealers.

6. Why Didn't GPI Disclose The Presence Of Lead In Chips?

GPI had no information, and has no information, that the use of Paulson® chips poses any significant risk to players or dealers. GPI is aware of a news report on a local television station in Phoenix on lead in Paulson chips. That report contained significant inaccuracies and improperly implied Paulson chips were unsafe to casino workers, patrons, or others. GPI has met with the Arizona Department of Health Services in response to concerns raised by the news report and to work with the agency in obtaining additional factual information on the safety of Paulson® chips.

