

For Immediate Release

## **CARU FINDS FISHER PRICE ‘POWER WHEELS FORD F-150’ ADVERTISING ADEQUATELY DEPICTS ADULT SUPERVISION**

*New York, NY – April 1, 2009* – The Children’s Advertising Review Unit of the Council of Better Business Bureaus has determined that television advertising for the Power Wheels Ford F-150 Truck, marketed by Fisher Price, adequately depicts the need for adult supervision.

The advertising at issue came to the attention of CARU through its routine monitoring practices.

The commercial featured two children driving a *Power Wheels Ford F-150 Truck*. The commercial featured an adult male throwing a bag into the bed of his truck and then turning around to look at the children as they mimicked his actions and put a bag into the bed of their toy truck. As the boys drove away in the vehicle, the passenger turned around and waved to the adult. The advertisement also included a voiceover and a written super stating that “parental supervision is required.”

CARU’s guidelines on “Unsafe and Inappropriate Advertising to Children” state that advertisers should take into account that children are prone to exploration, imitation and experimentation and may imitate product demonstrations or other activities depicted in advertisements without regard to risk. Further, the guidelines note that when an activity would be unsafe without adult supervision, supervision should be depicted.

Following its review of the advertising at issue, CARU determined that the advertising provided a meaningful depiction of adult supervision. The back-to-back scenes of supervision, with the adult observing the children’s actions and the child waving to the adult, demonstrated a sense of constant supervision and understanding of this supervision by the child. This continuity served to strengthen the take-away message for viewers that adult supervision is required.

Fisher-Price, in its advertiser’s statement, said the company “appreciates the opportunity to participate in the self-regulatory process.”

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*CARU’s inquiry was conducted under NAD/CARU/NARB Procedures for the Voluntary Self-Regulation of National Advertising. Details of the initial inquiry, CARU’s decision, and the advertiser’s response will be included in the next NAD/CARU Case Report.*

**About Advertising Industry Self-Regulation:** The National Advertising Review Council (NARC) was formed in 1971 by the Association of National Advertisers, Inc. (ANA), the American Association of Advertising Agencies, Inc. (AAAA), the American Advertising Federation, Inc. (AAF), and the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc. (CBBB). Its purpose is to foster truth and accuracy in national advertising through voluntary self-regulation. NARC is the body that establishes the policies and procedures for the CBBB’s National Advertising Division (NAD) and Children’s Advertising Review Unit (CARU), as well as for the National Advertising Review Board (NARB) and Electronic Retailing Self-Regulation Program (ERSP).

NAD and CARU are the investigative arms of the advertising industry’s voluntary self-regulation program. Their casework results from competitive challenges from other advertisers, and also from self-monitoring traditional and new media. The National Advertising Review Board (NARB), the appeals body, is a peer group from which ad-hoc panels are selected to adjudicate those cases that are not resolved at the NAD/CARU level. This unique, self-regulatory system is funded entirely by the business community; CARU is financed by the children’s advertising industry, while NAD/NARC/NARB’s sole source of funding is derived from membership fees paid to the CBBB. Funding for ERSP is derived from membership fees paid to the Electronic Retailing Association. For more information about advertising self regulation, please visit [www.narcpartners.org](http://www.narcpartners.org).