

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

NO. 004/10 JANUARY 2010

NEW SOUTH WALES, STATE OF AUSTRALIA: REGULATION UPDATE FOR MAGNETIC TOYS

On November 13th, 2009, the Government of the State of New South Wales (Australia) published a notice titled "[Fair Trading Amendment \(Magnetic Toys\) Regulation 2009](#)" under the Fair Trading Act 1987. This regulation is amending the Fair Trading Regulation 2007 to include requirements for magnetic toys. Section of "Division 14A Magnetic toys" is inserted after Division 14 of Part 2 of the Fair Trading Regulation 2007.

The regulation requires, starting from March 1st, 2010, magnetic toys to comply with the relevant provision in the Australian/New Zealand Standard entitled AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002, *Safety of toys, Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties* (ISO 8124-1:2000, MOD).

Under this regulation, toys shall not liberate a hazardous magnet or magnetic component after being tested for normal and reasonably foreseeable use and abuse test, and the packaging and instructions of toys which contain loose, as-received magnets or magnetic components should include a statement similar to the following:

"Warning! The product contains small magnet(s). Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious infections and death. Seek immediate medical attention if magnet(s) are swallowed or inhaled."

The regulation does not apply to the use of magnets in motors, relays, speakers, electrical components, and similar devices where the magnetic properties are not part of the play pattern of the toy.

The ACCC, the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission is examining risks related to magnetic toys. This may result in a federal regulation applicable for the whole of Australia.

Please also refer to our [SafeGuards 061/09 Amendment n°2 to AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002](#) published on March 2009 for the detailed requirements for magnetic toys.



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The following definitions apply to the new regulation:

HAZARDOUS MAGNET has the same meaning as in AS/NZS ISO 8124, specifically, a magnet which has a flux index greater than 50kG2mm2 and which is in any of the following shapes and sizes:

1. A cylinder with a length of not more than 32mm and a diameter of not more than 11mm;
2. A disk with a diameter of not more than 26mm and a thickness of not more than 5mm;
3. A sphere with a diameter of not more than 22mm; or
4. Any solid that will fit entirely within the volume or envelop of any of the above defined shapes.

HAZARDOUS MAGNETIC COMPONENT is defined as any part of a toy that meets the dimensional criteria set forth in the definition of Hazardous Magnet and that contains an attached or embedded magnet that has a flux index of greater than 50kG2mm2.

MAGNETIC TOY means a toy, being an object or group of objects manufactured, designed, labelled or marketed as a plaything for a child or children under the age of 14 years, that contains one or more hazardous magnets that are intended to be used in playing with the toy.

MAGNETS that are intended to be used in playing with magnetic toys perform various functions such as joining carriages of a toy train, holding letters, figures and objects to a metal board or play scene and attaching magnetic darts to dartboards.

SGS can offer a wide range of services on magnets in toys. Don't hesitate to contact us for information.

Through our global network of laboratories, we enable to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy work for technical and non-technical parameters in a comprehensive range of consumer products. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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