

MEDIA RELEASE



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TOY SAFETY: STANDARDS AUSTRALIA CALLS FOR VIGILANCE

Standards Australia has called on toy importers and manufacturers to ensure that their products meet Australian Standards and current laws relating to toy safety.

“Consumers are increasingly demanding certainty that products are safe and comply with relevant standards,” said Dr Bronwyn Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia.

“Australian Standards are referenced in many regulations covering toys. Suppliers have an obligation to ensure that consumer products are safe for their intended user as specified by the Australian Consumer Law,” Dr Evans said.

“Both importers and local manufacturers need to ensure that quality control and evaluation, against applicable safety standards, are part of their ongoing processes,” Dr Evans said.

Dr Evans also said that all participants in the supply chain have a role to play in ensuring that children’s toys are safe. Regulations apply equally to all suppliers whether they be manufacturers, importers, wholesalers or retailers.

The standards particularly focus on hazards that may not be obvious to the user. Examples to watch out for are:

- ✓ Small magnets may be swallowed and cause perforation of the intestine
- ✓ Button batteries may be swallowed and cause severe burns in the throat and intestines
- ✓ Small removable objects can pose choking risks
- ✓ Small projectiles with suction cups may be discharged into the throat and cause choking.

When purchasing toys, consumers should check for warnings concerning specific hazards and ensure that the product is appropriate for the age of the child for whom it is being bought. If concerned about toys already in the home, then they should:

- ✓ Stop using it
- ✓ Get it checked
- ✓ Contact the supplier

The 8124 Series of Australian Standards deal with the Safety of Toys including: mechanical and physical properties generally, flammability, the release of elements such as lead and specific requirements for activity toys such as swings, slides and jumping castles.

“The only answer when it comes to toy safety is high and ongoing vigilance,” said Dr Bronwyn Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia.

ENDS.

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