

Institute for testing and certification

Project information



Child's health & safety are our common goal

Dear producers, merchants and parents,

Our children are accompanied by toys from their very birth. Plush teddy bears, dolls, little cars and many more favourite toys are in close contact with the child much more frequently than other products. This is the main reason why toys are classified under the group of products, for which strict safety criteria and other requirements for their placing on the market are laid down by the European Union legislation. An incorrectly designed and produced toy can be the source for serious health risks threatening the little user.

A general principal applied when assessing the compliance of toys is the responsibility of the producer (importer) for the safety of a product to be placed on the EU market. A great number of producers make use of this option without any further cooperation with an independent testing laboratory that would be involved to ensure a higher level of safety and, in particular, its stability. Many toys we commonly find on the shelves in our shops have been tested in a very shallow way only and without any in-depth approach, and materials used for their production are very frequently subject to changes, resulting in the situation that the previously performed tests are no longer applicable and appropriate.

The publication you now have in your hands was created as a part of the "Safe Toys" project, which is being established by the Institute for Testing and Certification, a. s. Zlín (hereinafter referred to as the "ITC") in the Czech Republic and which originates from the Italian Institute for Toy Safety in Cabiato. This project has expanded to other European countries through ITC and, in addition to Italy, Greece, Spain, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, it will be heading towards Germany, Poland and Hungary in the forthcoming months. Producers and importers hereby obtain a suitable tool allowing a thorough assessment of toys in respect of all potential risks going beyond the scope of the basic assessment, which takes place when the product is introduced to the market.

The end consumer makes a good choice by purchasing products bearing the "Safe Toy" label. The safe design of such toys and the health safety of the materials used in the toys are guaranteed with certification by a competent establishment. A permanent supervision of the product's quality throughout the process of its placement on the market provides the highest possible level of certainty that the toy will not cause any temporary or permanent damage to the child's health.

The following lines are intended for those who would like to learn more about the requirements applied to toys labelled with the yellow "Safe Toy" logo, as well as about the psychology of play and about the procedures to be followed when selecting the correct toy.

We would like to thank all those who support the idea of safe and healthy play of our children.



Radomir Cevelik
Director general of ITC

WHO IS THE MARK “SAFE TOYS” DESIGNED FOR?

Certification Mark is designed for all the toys defined by the Council Directive No. 88/378/EEC:

- GAMES, BUILDING KITS, DIDACTICAL TOYS, PUZZLES
- DOLLS, FIGURINES, AUTOS
- TEXTILE TOYS
- DOLL BUGGIES, TOYS TO BE USED IN WATER,
- CHEMICAL TOYS, VARIOUS SETS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS,
- BOUNCERS, SWINGS, SEESAWS, CHUTES, BALLS AND FUNCTIONAL TOYS
- TOYS FOR TODDLERS (RATTLES, TOYS FOR BITING, TOYS FOR SAND BOXES, ETC.)
- BATTERY-OPERATED TOYS, REMOTE-CONTROLLED TOYS
- CARNIVAL COSTUMES, MASKS



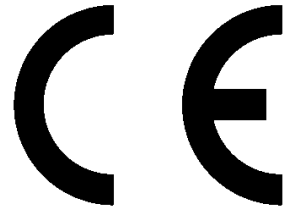
OBJECTIVE OF THE MARK – TO WIN MARKET CONFIDENCE IN “SAFE TOYS” - MARKED PRODUCTS, IN PARTICULAR WITH CONSUMERS AND END-USERS:

- SIMPLE WAY OF PROVIDING INFORMATION ON SAFETY LEVEL AND QUALITY OF TOYS TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS
- SUPPORT FOR COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CLIENTS AND SUPPLIERS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS WITH HIGH SAFETY AND QUALITY LEVELS
- IMAGE ENHANCEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR MARKET RECOGNITION OF HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS AT THE EXPENSE OF PRODUCTS MEETING ONLY THE MINIMUM LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
- INFORMATION ON SUCCESSFUL PRODUCT COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT IN RELATION TO SPECIFIED LEGISLATIVE AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
- GUARANTEE OF PERMANENT COMPLIANCE WITH SAFETY AND QUALITY STANDARDS OF PRODUCTS BEARING THE “SAFE TOYS” MARK

PRECONDITIONS TO ATTAIN CERTIFICATION MARK

The right to designate products with certification mark is conditional on:

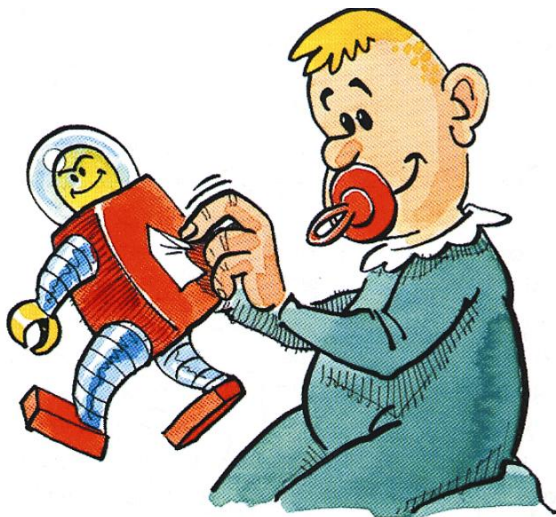
- **MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE NO. 88/378/EEC**
- **ACCOMPLISHING OTHER REQUIRMENTS THAT ASSURE HIGHER LEVEL OF SAFETY AS DESCRIBED IN SO CALLED GENERAL RULES FOR LICENSE AND USE OF "SAFE TOY" ALONG WITH ATTAINING THE CERTIFICATE FROM AN ENTITY IN CHARGE OF OPERATIONS WITHIN "SAFE TOY" PROJECT**
- **POSITIVE RESULTS OF PERIODIC INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY AN ENTITY IN CHARGE OF OPERATIONS WITHIN "SAFE TOYS" PROJECT**
- **SIGNING LICENSE AGREEMENT TO APPLY "SAFE TOYS" MARK**



LAB ASSESMENT OF PRODUCTS WITHIN “SAFE TOYS” SYSTEM

Categorization of toys according to age of children

A toy is assessed by psychologist, which determines supposed age of children, which a toy is suitable for and this one is in accord with knowledge of the evolution cognitive abilities and motor skills of children. Specified age limits are necessary for safety guaranty of children. Parents and adults that are supervising a child's game are obliged to take this aspect into account.



Risk analysis

The toy is analysed by different profession expert team from the viewpoint of all potential risk evaluation with respect to the predicted use of the toy. Because children are very inventive, must be inspected also the foreseeable mistaken style of toy use. In the compliance with risk analysis the exact range of laboratory tests is specified for all toys, as necessary for certification and for issue of „Safe Toys” mark.

Physical and mechanical tests

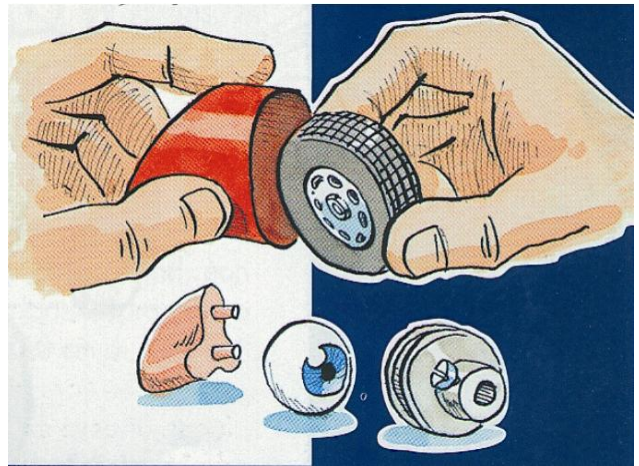
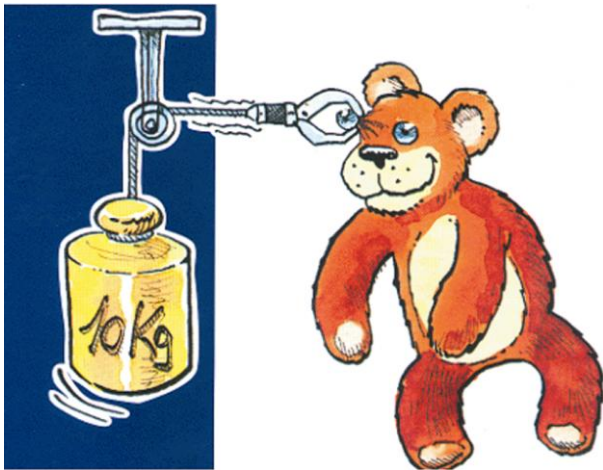
In the laboratories it is tested if toys does not have any sharp edges or points and if does not contain very small particles for the ingestion.

Toy car and another products, which are able to carry the child , must prove the good construction resistance against the impact on the barrier. Toys must be hardest tests resistant and must be excluded the possibility of penetration their parts into the nose, eyes and ears.



Chemical, hygienic anylisis, radioactivity

Chemical analysis has the general target to check hygienic safety of raw-material, dyes and varnish in accord with safety limits in the area of migrating elements and another harmful substances for example free formaldehyde, phthalates, primary aromatic amines, optical brighteners, free monomers and so on.



Electrical tests

On the toys powered by the accumulator the electromagnetic compatibility is tested in the prescribed frequency range and the overheating resistance of the toy part coming into contact with child body. Special tests are pursued on the electrical toys used in the water.

Flammability tests

The toys with the hair, the textile toys and wadded toys are tested from the viewpoint of their flammability properties. In accordance with EN 71-2 it is assessed in flammability – toy tendency to the combustion at the contact with flammable source - and flammability - the burning rate on the toy surface. Both parameters have a limit values considering compliance with desired safety level.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM

Initial inspection

Process of the mark issue is not finished by laboratory test making and the enhanced safety level is realized by verification of technological process with initial inspection of factory production. The result is finding if are toys in the permanent compliance with safety requirements and if producer fulfils necessary requirements of standards quality management.

Product surveillance

Institute has the right to make periodic inspections - at least once per year - aimed at the conformity verification of the product according to the rules for mark use. Surveillance proceeds by way of inspection visit and during this one is made sampling for the repetitive laboratory tests. Licence validity for the mark use is given by positive results of the inspections.



ARE YOU BUYING THE RIGHT TOY FOR THE RIGHT AGE CHILD?

INFANTS UNDER AGE ONE YEAR:

In the first few months of a child's life, your baby is relatively immobile. Eventually, he or she will learn to reach, roll over and sit up. In the second six months, infants become more mobile and are at an increased risk for choking.

The most appropriate toys for baby's first year are:

- **ACTIVITY QUILTS**
- **STUFFED ANIMALS WITHOUT BUTTON NOSES AND EYES**
- **BATH TOYS**
- **SOFT DOLLS**
- **BABY SWINGS**
- **CLOTH BOOKS**
- **SQUEAKY TOYS**
- **LARGE BLOCKS OF WOOD OR PLASTIC**

AGES 1 TO 3 YEARS

At this age, children are curious, but do not know what is dangerous. They like to climb, mump, throw and play rough-and-tumble games.

The best toys for this age group include:

- **BOARD BOOKS AND VINYL OR CLOTH BOOKS**
- **BLOCKS**
- **FIT-TOGETHER TOYS WITH BIG PIECES**
- **BALLS - PLASTIC, RUBBER, CLOTH (CHOOSE BALLS THAT BABY CAN HOLD, BUT AREN'T TOO SMALL)**
- **PUSH AND PULL TOYS - WAGONS AND DOLL CARRIAGES ARE GOOD CHOICES**
- **POUNDING TOYS**
- **SHAPE TOYS (FIT CERTAIN SHAPES INTO MATCHING SPACE)**



AGES 3 TO 5 YEARS

These children are known to "think with their feet" and spend most of their time running. They like toys that test their strength and physical ability, and materials they can use to build or create with.

The best toys for this age group include:

- TRICYCLES, "BIG WHEELS"
- LARGE BLOCKS, CARDBOARD BRICKS, DUPLOS
- FOR OUTDOORS - SMALL SLIDES, PLAY HOUSES, SANDBOXES
- BASEBALL TEE, LARGE BASEBALL BAT, SMALL BASKETBALL HOOP, TOY GOLF SET
- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
- NON-TOXIC ART SUPPLIES
- BOOKS, VIDEOS



SHOPPING FOR THE 5- TO 10-YEAR-OLDS

The younger children in this age group are becoming more creative and physically active. They can write, enjoy arts and crafts and are able to use simple mechanical toys. The older children can begin to use electrical and battery-powered toys. Be sure to check these toys regularly for loose or exposed wires. Children should not change batteries without adult supervision.

The best toys for these children are:

- ART SUPPLIES AND CRAFT MATERIALS SUCH AS PIPE CLEANERS, YARN, CLAY
- JUMP ROPES
- PUPPETS
- BOOKS, PUZZLES, BOARD GAMES
- ELECTRIC TRAINS
- REMOTE-CONTROLLED CARS AND TRUCKS
- TAPE RECORDERS AND CASSETTE PLAYERS



THE 9- TO 14-YEAR-OLDS

Children this age often enjoy team sports and games that test their dexterity. Strenuous physical activity is also popular. Children this age begin to develop hobbies or strong interests in scientific activities.

Appropriate gifts might include:

- PICK-UP STICKS, MARBLES, HAND-HELD GAMES
- COMPUTERS, MICROSCOPES, CAMERAS
- BOARD GAMES
- BOOKS - ESPECIALLY THOSE ON A TOPIC OF INTEREST
- INLINE SKATES, BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS
- SPORTS EQUIPMENT - BALLS, MITTS, RACQUETS, CLOTHING



WHEN BUYING TOYS

- Choosing toys with care. Keep in mind the child's age, interests and skill level.
- Look for quality design and construction in all toys for all ages.
- Make sure that all directions or instructions are clear -- to you, and, when appropriate, to the child. Plastic wrappings on toys should be discarded at once before they become deadly playthings.
- Be a label reader. Look for marking CE (conformity with requirements of Council Directive No. 88/378/EEC) and other recommendations, such as "Not recommended for children under three". Look for other safety labels for example certification mark "SAFETY TOYS"

WHEN STORING TOYS

Teach children to put their toys safely away on shelves or in a toy chest after playing to prevent trips and falls.

Toy boxes, too, should be checked for safety. Use a toy chest that has a lid that will stay open in any position to which it is raised, and will not fall unexpectedly on a child. For extra safety, be sure there are ventilation holes for fresh air. Watch for sharp edges that could cut and hinges that could pinch or squeeze. See that toys used outdoors are stored after play -- rain or dew can rust or damage a variety of toys and toy parts creating hazards.

SHARP EDGES

New toys intended for children under eight years of age should, by regulation, be free of sharp glass and metal edges.

With use, however, older toys may break, exposing cutting edges.

SMALL PARTS

Older toys can break to reveal parts small enough to be swallowed or to become lodged in a child's windpipe, ears or nose. The law bans small parts in new toys intended for children under three. This includes removable small eyes and noses on stuffed toys and dolls, and small, removable squeakers on squeeze toys.



LOUD NOISES

Toy caps and some noisemaking guns and other toys can produce sounds at noise levels that can damage hearing. The law requires the following label on boxes of caps producing noise above a certain level: "WARNING -- Do not fire closer than one foot to the ear. Do not use indoors." Caps producing noise that can injure a child's hearing are banned.

CORDS AND STRINGS

Toys with long strings or cords may be dangerous for infants and very young children. The cords may become wrapped around an infant's neck, causing strangulation. Never hang toys with long strings, cords, loops, or ribbons in cribs or playpens where children can become entangled. Remove crib gyms for the crib when the child can pull up on hands and knees; some children have strangled when they fell across crib gyms stretched across the crib.

SHARP POINTS

Toys which have been broken may have dangerous points or prongs. Stuffed toys may have wires inside the toy which could cut or stab if exposed. A CPSC regulation prohibits sharp points in new toys and other articles intended for use by children under eight years of age.

PROPELLED OBJECTS

Projectiles -- guided missiles and similar flying toys -- can be turned into weapons and can injure eyes in particular. Children should never be permitted to play with adult lawn darts or other hobby or sporting equipment that have sharp points. Arrows or darts used by children should have soft cork tips, rubber suction cups or other protective tips intended to prevent injury. Check to be sure the tips are secure. Avoid those dart guns or other toys which might be capable of firing articles not intended for use in the toy, such as pencils or nails.

ALL TOYS ARE NOT FOR ALL CHILDREN

Keep toys designed for older children out of the hands of little ones. Follow labels that give age recommendations -- some toys are recommended for older children because they may be hazardous in the hands of a younger child. Teach older children to help keep their toys away from younger brothers and sisters.

Even balloons, when uninflated or broken, can choke or suffocate if young children try to swallow them. More children have suffocated on uninflated balloons and pieces of broken balloons than on any other type of toy.

ELECTRIC TOYS

Electric toys that are improperly constructed, wired or misused can shock or burn. Electric toys must meet mandatory requirements for maximum surface temperatures, electrical construction and prominent warning labels. Electric toys with heating elements are recommended only for children over eight years old. Children should be taught to use electric toys properly, cautiously and under adult supervision.

INFANT TOYS

Infant toys, such as rattles, squeeze toys, and teethingers, should be large enough so that they cannot enter and become lodged in an infant's throat.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Protecting children from unsafe toys is the responsibility of everyone. Careful toy selection and proper supervision of children at play is still -- and always will be -- the best way to protect children from toy-related injuries.



PROJECT **"SAFE TOYS"**

- **PRESENT FROM MANUFACTURES AND TRADERS TO OUR CHILDREN**
- **ASSURANCE OF THE SAFE, HEALTH AND FUNNY GAME CERTIFIED BY SPECIALIST IN THE SCOPE**
- **HEALTH SAFETY AND CHILD SAFETY ARE OUR COMMON AIM**



Information about detailed processes of project "Safe toys" you can receive in the subjects:

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