

New Australian Safety Standard for Lead and Heavy Metals in Toys

The Australian government has published a new safety standard that limits lead and heavy metals in children's toys. These requirements, which go into effect on January 1, 2010, will replace the current Trade Practices Act ban on lead in toys, which was implemented in September 2007. The current Customs Regulations about Prohibited Products on migratable lead and certain other elements in imported toys or playthings, money boxes, pencils and paint brushes, and erasers resembling food in scent and appearance will remain in effect.

The new standard declares the following sections to be law under the Consumer Product Safety Standard, Section 65(C):

- a) Finger paints for children shall comply with clause 4.4 of Australian Standard AS 8124.7-2003, Safety of toys Part 7 – Finger paints.
- b) Other toys for children shall comply with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 8124.3:2003, Safety of toys Part 3 – Migration of certain elements.

A variation to Standard AS/NZS ISO 8124.3:2003 will be implemented. In Section 7, Selection of test portions, the following sentence is deleted: "When appropriate, the toy shall be subjected to relevant tests in accordance with ISO 8124-1, before the accessibility is considered."

Under the new standard, "children's toys" are defined as new products that are designed or clearly intended for use in play by children.

Products which are not under the scope of this standard include sporting goods, camping goods, bicycles, home and public playground equipment, trampolines, electronic game units, models powered by combustion or steam engines, and fashion jewelry for children.

Link to: [Consumer Protection Notice No. 1 of 2009](#)

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