

Vermont Passes Phthalates Law

On May 24, 2008, Vermont Governor Jim Douglas signed into law Senate Bill 261, (Act No. 171), An Act Relating to Phthalates in Products for Young Children. This law prohibits the manufacture, sale or distribution of any toy or child care article intended for use by a child under three years of age if that product contains di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), or benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), in concentrations exceeding 0.1 percent. In addition, this law prohibits the manufacture, sale or distribution of any toy or child care article intended for use by a child under three years of age if that product can be placed in the child’s mouth and contains diisononyl phthalate (DINP), diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP), or di-n-octyl phthalate (DnOP), in concentrations exceeding 0.1 percent. These restrictions are effective July 1, 2009.

Under this law, “child care article” means any product designed or intended by the manufacturer to facilitate sleep, relaxation, or the feeding of children, or to help children with sucking or teething; “phthalate” means any one of a group of chemicals used as plasticizers to provide flexibility and durability to plastics such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC); and “toy” means any product designed or intended by the manufacturer to be used by children when they play.

The following table summarizes these new restrictions:

Phthalate	Restricted Product	Maximum Limit	Effective Date
DEHP	Any toy or child care article intended for use by a child under three years of age	0.1%	July 1, 2009
DBP		0.1%	
BBP		0.1%	
DINP	Any toy or child care article intended for use by a child under three years of age if that product can be placed in the child’s mouth	0.1%	
DIDP		0.1%	
DnOP		0.1%	

For more details on these restrictions, [click here](#) for the full text of the law.

STR offers analytical expertise in phthalate testing. Our hazard prevention program for toys includes comprehensive safety testing, audit, inspection as well as responsible sourcing services. For more information, contact us at inquiry@strus.com.