

Updated Worldwide Requirements For Toys Containing Magnets

Childhood injuries caused by the ingestion of loose magnets and magnetic components of toys are causing increasing concern. Two or more ingested magnets can link together inside the body, such as across intestines, sometimes resulting in serious injury or even death. Following the lead of ASTM F963-07, several countries are adopting new regulations and safety standards governing the use of magnets in toys. The table below provides a brief overview of current worldwide requirements for magnets in toys.

The following table provides a brief summary for current country requirements on magnetic toys.

Countries	Regulations / Standards	Applicable Subjects	Safety Requirement
USA	ASTM F963-07 ⁴	Toys intended for children over 3 and up to 8 years of age that contain a hazardous magnets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shall not liberate hazardous magnets or hazardous magnetic components after the foreseeable normal use and abuse tests. For toys containing a loose as-received hazardous magnet or a loose as-received hazardous magnetic component, it shall carry the following safety labeling on its retail packaging and instruction. <p>WARNING: This product contains (a) 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.</p>
EU ¹	Commission Decision on Magnetic Toys (2008/329/EC)	Magnetic toys	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Magnetic toys which are placed or made available in the Community market shall display the warning on its retail packaging or otherwise attached to the magnetic toys. <p>“Warning! This toy contains magnets or magnetic components. Magnets sticking together or becoming attached to a metallic object inside the human body can cause serious or fatal injury. Seek immediate medical help if magnets are swallowed or inhaled.”</p> <p>(Or with an equivalent, easily understandable wording that clearly conveys the same content.)</p> The warning shall appear in a clearly visible and a legible manner, in the official language of the Member State in which the product is placed or made available for sale. The decision was adopted on 21 April, 2008 and will come into force on 21 July, 2008. The implementation period is set to expired on 21 April, 2009.
France	Avis aux fabricants, importateurs et distributeurs relatif à l'application du décret no 89-662 du 12 septembre 1989 modifié relatif à la prévention des risques résultant de l'usage des jouets	Toys containing small accessible and ingestible magnets	<p>The French recommendation requiring toys containing small ingestible magnets which are accessible to children for the French market shall bear the following (or equivalent) warning on its retail packaging, preferably before 1 January, 2008.</p> <p>Attention ! Risque de lésions digestives graves si des aimants sont avalés !</p>
Mercosur (Southern common market) ³	NM 300-1: 2002 / EMD. 1:2007	Toys containing magnets or magnetic components	<p>Toy containing magnets or magnetic components, regardless of its intended age grading,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> shall not contain small magnets or magnetic components that fit within the small parts cylinder; and shall not have magnets or magnetic components detached after the reasonable and foreseeable abuse tests that can fit within the small parts cylinder.

Countries	Regulations / Standards	Applicable Subjects	Safety Requirement
United Kingdom	“Consultation on proposals to implement the European Commission Decision on safety warnings for toys containing magnets”, published by BERR ² in April 2008.	Magnetic toys	<p>1. The BERR consultation seeks views on the proposed requirement for magnetic toys to be accompanied by a safety warning on its retail packaging or otherwise attached to the magnetic toys.</p> <p>“Warning: This toy contains magnets or magnetic components. Magnets sticking together or becoming attached to a metallic object inside the human body can cause serious or fatal injury. Seek immediate medical help if magnets are swallowed or inhaled.”</p> <p>(Or with an equivalent, easily comprehensive wording which clearly conveys the same meaning.)</p> <p>2. The warning shall appear in a clearly visible and legible manner.</p> <p>3. The consultation was closed for public response on 16 May, 2008 and is awaiting Government response.</p>
	“Magnet Warning Notice”, published by the British Toys & Hobby Association (BTHA)	Magnetic toys	<p>1. Toys containing magnets will be required to display a warning complying with the European Commission Decision on magnetic toys (2008/329/EC).</p> <p>“Warning! This toy contains magnets or magnetic components. Magnets sticking together or becoming attached to a metallic object inside the human body can cause serious or fatal injury. Seek immediate medical help if magnets are swallowed or inhaled.”</p> <p>(Or with an equivalent, easily understandable wording that clearly conveys the same content.)</p> <p>2. The warning shall be visible to the consumer in a visible and legible manner at the point of sale.</p> <p>Copy of the “Magnet Warning Notice” can be accessed through: http://www.btha.co.uk/publications/Magnet%20Warning%20Notice2.doc</p>

¹ European Union Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

² Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR). Refer to STR newsletter (No. P0142008) of April 2008 for information of the consultation proposal.

³ Mercosur (Southern common market): Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay