

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDGOODS, TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

NO. 205/11 NOV 2011

## CPSC WARNS THAT SAFETY RISKS PERSIST WITH HIGH-POWERED MAGNETS

According to a US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) press release issued on 10 November 2011, small powerful magnets in certain products – such as jewelry intended to simulate piercings, magnetic executive gifts intended as “stress relievers” or desk accessories, as well as magnets in office supplies – are subject to the CPSC warning<sup>1</sup>.

The CPSC reported that incidents involving high-powered magnets have been on the rise from one case in 2009 to 14 incidents through October 2011. These occurrences have involved children aged from 18 months to 15 years old. In some instances toddlers have found loose magnets that have fallen within reach, or have been able to access loose magnets left on a table, refrigerator, sofa or the floor according to the CPSC. [The report](#) also indicated that in some instances, these magnets were swallowed intentionally.

The CPSC is urging parents to take extra care to ensure that young children and those who still mouth objects do not have access to these types of small powerful magnets. When ingested, these dangerous magnets can cause internal bleeding, intestinal blockage, blood poisoning or even death.



A mandatory toy safety standard (ASTM F963) currently exists to address hazardous magnets in any piece of a toy that is small enough to be swallowed and intended for children under 14 years. Toys containing loose, as-received hazardous magnets or as-received magnetic components that have a flux index of 50 or greater and a specific shape and size shall carry safety labelling on their packaging and instructions.

A new safety standard for children’s jewellery (ASTM F2923), which includes testing and labelling requirements for hazardous magnets contained in jewellery, was released on 10, November 2011. This standard is available for purchase at the [ASTM website](#).

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<sup>1</sup> [CPSC Warns about Danger of High-Powered Magnets in Certain Non-Toy Products](#)

SGS has published several news bulletins<sup>2</sup> on the issue of magnetic parts in toys and other children's products due to the safety implications. We will continue to monitor the issue and inform interested parties about regulations and standards on magnetic parts in children's products.

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<sup>2</sup> [Safeguards-061/09-AS-NZS-ISO-81241-2002](#)  
[SafeGuardS\\_015/08\\_Magnetic\\_Toys\\_Warning\\_Label](#)  
[SafeGuardS\\_010/08\\_Magnetic\\_Toys](#)  
[SafeGuardS\\_087/07\\_EU\\_magnets\\_in\\_toys](#)  
[SafeGuardS\\_086/07\\_France\\_magnets\\_in\\_toys](#)  
[SafeGuards\\_031/07\\_Hazardous\\_Magnets\\_in\\_Toys](#)

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