

CONSUMER COMPACT

THE CONSUMER PRODUCT PUBLICATION THAT KEEPS YOU INFORMED

JUNE • 2010



ARE YOU GOING GREEN?

MEASURE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PACKAGING
GETTING THE LEAD OUT OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS
THE RISE AND RISE OF ECO-FASHION

SGS

DEAR READER,

Being a “green” company that manufactures or sells eco-friendly products is not much of a strategic choice anymore. The surge of “green” regulations, directives and standards being implemented around the world, in all consumer product sectors, means a company’s growth depends increasingly on its ability to quickly turn green.

So are you going green? Well if you haven’t given it any attention yet this is the time to do so. Green companies rethink the way they create, move and market their products, to make them better, safer, eco-friendly and yes, more profitable. By using your resources wisely and by being more energy efficient, your business is more competitive and avoids becoming a magnet for negative headlines.

This Consumer Compact shows you the latest green technologies-related regulations, some success stories from various markets and the means available to you to ensure your implementation of eco-measures is a fast and seamless process.

As always, you can find detailed information on SGS quality and product safety services and much more by visiting: www.sgs.com/cts

The SGS CTS Marketing Team

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SGS Product Recalls is offered for no charge as part of our SafeGuards publication. [See more details.](#)

SGS CONTACTS

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ECO DIRECTIVE SETS NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

Towards the end of 2009, the EuP Directive (2005/32/EC) was replaced with a new Directive (Energy-related products 2009/125/EC) valid for ecological planning of energy-related products.

The original EuP Directive was valid only for energy using products e.g. lighting sources, light fittings, microwave ovens, washing machines and TV receivers. The scope of the new Directive includes other energy related products e.g. windows, taps and shower heads, in addition to products covered under the first EuP Directive.

According to the European Commission definition, the Directive is valid for products having an impact on energy consumption when used. Energy-related products are products which use energy as well as energy-saving products, e.g. windows that keep the heat inside of homes and the resulting energy savings can be used for heating water.

Due to the large number of products that are now defined as Energy-related Products, many new 'Implementing Measures' need to be established and then implemented before a product can bear the CE-marking.

The Energy-related Products Directive mentions that the already existing Implementing Measures, that were previously linked to the old EuP Directive are now related with the new directive 2009/125/EC. This is relevant for consumer goods producers using the respective Implementing Measures in their manufacturing process. They now have to update their Declaration of Conformity to include a reference to the new Energy-related Products Directive.

SOLUTIONS TO COPE WITH THE NEW CHANGES

The Eco-directive is an important part of the environmental legislation and it can seem difficult to perform all the measures needed for CE marking. Considering the entire range of product-specific requirements prior to market launch, third



party accredited organizations can support you in achieving conformity with the Eco-Directive by:

- ensuring your products comply with the requirements of proposed and future Directives
- promptly verifying whether your products comply with the relevant implementation measures. You will receive a test report for the technical construction file and Declaration of Conformity for CE marking.
- receiving timely information about how to ensure, in a cost-efficient way, that your products comply with requirements of other directives (e.g. Low-Voltage Directive, EMC Directive).

Other steps that will ensure a smooth implementation of the Eco-directives include:

- performing the ecological profile of your products according to the Eco-directive.
- analysing your product's life span and its impact on the construction and production of the product.
- testing and eco-planning to Eco-Directives requirements.

SGS has the capacity to support your product development throughout the eco-design process. With training and guidance from SGS in eco-planning matters you can assess the directive's impact on your business, supply chain, legal responsibilities and determine the important dates for implementation.

For more information on [E&E Consumer services](#).

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NEW E-WASTE LAW EXPECTED IN NEW YORK STATE

An agreement is likely to soon be reached on the pending electronics recycling legislature. Disagreement over exactly who manufacturers could charge for recycling services as well as pressure by electronics manufacturers to shift responsibility and cost (Advanced Recycling Fees) to the consumer had stalled the legislation until recently.

A severe operational budget deficit of over 55 state parks is likely to break the deadlock with the new legislation along with several other measures being implemented to generate much needed funds for the New York's Environmental Protection Fund to keep the parks open.

New York City was the first US municipality to enact an e-waste law, but now 22 states have e-waste laws on the books, which contain components that are similar to the New York City program.



E-WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

"E-waste" refers to discarded covered electronic equipment, such as computers, monitors, televisions, computer accessories, cell phones, and some personal electronic devices. Concern over the disposal of e-waste – which contains lead, mercury, and other metals – has grown in recent years, as technological change and lower prices have made replacing electronic equipment more and more popular.

The New York City program requires manufacturers to finance and implement methods to retrieve covered electronic equipment from city residents, government offices, and many businesses in a manner that is "convenient" for consumers. They are given a collection target linked directly to their market output. Collecting more than the target set would see some kind of bargaining chips or credits being given to the manufacturer while failure to reach the target incurs a penalty of between \$0.30 and \$0.50 per pound depending on the size of the company, with smaller manufacturers benefitting from lower charges.

LAW REQUIREMENTS

The electronics recycling program bill that is part of this budget package, A. 11308 and S. 7988, is almost identical to the two bills that were formerly in play, S. 6047A and A. 9049. Changes to the new bill include:

- Computer peripherals, document scanners and printers weighing more than 100 pounds would be exempted from the law.
- Manufacturers may charge "business consumers" for the collection and recycling services.
- Manufacturers may charge for premium services.
- Manufacturers may not charge government or not-for-profit corporations under 501(c)(3).

Although conservationists and environmental lobbyists are very optimistic about the new bill, electronics manufacturers remain unhappy, claiming it will cost them over \$200 million per year to comply with the new legislation,

a cost which will inevitably be passed on to the consumer although the bill expressly states that the service should be free for New York residents. They also argue that the new legislation violates the manufacturers' equal protection rights by targeting only certain types of electronic equipment while excluding from coverage other types of electronic equipment that contain the same types of potentially harmful substances.

The new law is set to be passed and signed at the end of May* and will immediately preempt New York City's electronics recycling law and implementing regulations.

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*correct at the time of article drafting

EXCESSIVE SODIUM CONSUMPTION AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE INTAKE

Consuming too much sodium is a concern for individuals around the world. Excessive consumption of sodium especially Sodium Chloride (Salt) leads to high blood pressure which can result in heart disease, stroke, heart failure and kidney disease. Analysts estimate that reducing sodium consumption in the US can reduce the death rate by more than 100,000 people annually.

In 2008, the US Congress requested that the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies develop strategies for reducing sodium intake. In April 2010 IOM produced their report "Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake in the United States"¹.

THIS IS THE RIGHT AMOUNT

Current dietary guidelines in the US recommend that the average person over the age of 2 consumes no more than 2,300 mg per day of sodium, equivalent to 1 teaspoon of salt (established by the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans). For certain members of the American population, such as African Americans, people with high blood pressure, kidney diseases or diabetes, the middle-aged and older people, the recommended dietary intake of sodium is 1,500 mg per day. According to the IOM report the average American consumes about 3,500 mg of sodium a day, which is 50% more than the recommended daily consumption level.²

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states that about 10% of our salt intake is from natural salt in food. 5 to 10% of the intake is from what is added during cooking or at the table directly added into the food from a salt shaker. About 75% of the salt intake comes from processed foods and what is added to foods in restaurants and food service operations.³

¹Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake in the US

²Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake in the US

³Lowering Salt in Your Diet

⁴Lowering Salt in Your Diet

As required under the Nutritional Labelling and Education Act of 1990 (NLEA), sodium information per Recommend Amount Customarily Consumed (RACC) is declared on all processed products sold directly to consumers. The NLEA established a daily Recommend Value (DRV) for Sodium of 2,400 mg.

Prior to this report the US government approach was to encourage consumers to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, consume foods that are high in Potassium, flavour foods with pepper and spices instead of salt and read the food labels and choose foods that are low in sodium.⁴

STEPS TOWARDS REDUCING SODIUM INTAKE

The industry and the US government have been working on reducing salt intake. Companies responded favourably to the report. ConAgra Foods Inc. pledged a 20% reduction of sodium in its food lines by 2015, which amounts to eliminating 10 million pounds of salt from the U.S. diet. General Mills announced similar goals for 2015 and Bumble Bee Foods, a San Diego based company, will almost halve the amount of sodium in its tuna servings in the next years.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and IOM released a report with recommendations to reduce salt content in school meals by 46.25 percent over the next decade. On a local level, New York City is implementing a program to push food makers/restaurant chains to voluntarily lower salt in their products by 25% over the next five years.



The IOM recommend that the US FDA establish national standards that slowly reduce the sodium content over a period of time, to achieve acceptance in the market place and allow consumers to adjust to products with less sodium. These recommendations are currently being evaluated by the US FDA.

Find more info on SGS services for the [Food Industry](#).

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FIELD MONITORING PROGRAMME ON VEAL A DECADE-LONG SUCCESS STORY

The German *Kontrollgemeinschaft Deutsches Kalbfleisch* (KDK) Field Monitoring Programme on Veal is a privately organized system of independently performed inspections and tests for the presence of illegal or undesired substances. For more than ten years this programme has proven to be a valuable and successful addition to governmental controls.



As a result of various “Veal scandals” caused by the use of hormones or other prohibited growth promoters in calf fattening in the last two decades of the 20th century the market for veal encountered a nearly complete breakdown at the end of the 90’s. In reaction to this crisis, veal-producers, slaughterhouses and the farmers’ association developed with the help of SGS Germany as a neutral certification body, a field monitoring program on residues of undesired or prohibited substances in veal. The program was intended to regain the consumers’ trust in veal production, to enhance governmental controls and to win back lost market shares.

ANIMALS, MATERIALS AND METHODS

The monitoring program is designed for calves that are kept for veal-production. Each calf is registered by its ear-tag-number and assigned to a fattening group by a central database. From an average age of 150 days on, each group is tested at least once by an SGS employee.

Throughout the entire fattening period ten percent of the fattening groups are tested twice, one percent even thrice to keep the farmers in permanent expectation of unannounced inspections. During these inspections urine, hair and – according to a sampling schedule – blood samples are taken to an accredited lab for analysis on β -agonists, hormones and other substances.

If none of those substances are found, the farmer receives a certificate with the individual numbers of the calves free to be slaughtered. Positive results go to a second lab for validation. If the samples

are positive again, further measures are taken and – as the case may be – sanctions applied against the farmer. The slaughterhouses that are members of the program are not allowed to slaughter calves without a valid SGS certificate.

RESULTS

The KDK programme was established in 1998; today more than 6,800 samples are tested every year. The count of positive samples has now diminished to a rarity. The range of tested substances has to be updated regularly and the sampling has to be performed unannounced thus deterring the farmers from illegal practices. Today about 65% of the calves slaughtered in Germany are produced by KDK participants.

As a privately organized monitoring program for veal production, the KDK programme has proven itself to be an effective tool for the control of malpractice in veal production and as a useful addition to governmental control. It has formed an important cornerstone in transforming the once controversial veal products into a safe commodity, successfully winning back consumer confidence and market share.

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MEASURE THE OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF YOUR PACKAGING

Companies and organizations are more aware of the considerable impact of packaging in economic, social and environmental dimensions. Packaging is becoming an increasingly important issue to all businesses and ecodesign is now viewed as a central component.



With more consumers worldwide and an overcrowded market, amounts of packaging being put into the waste stream are still rising causing, strong environmental impacts.

Besides the usual legal and technical requirements, cost optimization aim or marketing duty, packaging manufacturers have to take into account the environmental impacts of their packaging throughout its entire life cycle. The environmental factor has created more ambitious objectives for packaging manufacturers.

Topics such as resource minimization, transportation optimization, etc., now have to be taken into account for new designs. Although several steps have already been implemented, consumers show a widespread aversion toward waste products and litter and are still pressuring packaging industries to instigate greater change.

ECODESIGN SOLUTIONS

It is a real challenge to meet all these requirements when businesses need to achieve faster time to markets. Some companies now combine ecodesign principles with packaging functionality

for better product differentiation and competitive advantage. To help clients optimise packaging, SGS has created a packaging assessment tool called PEAR, Packaging Eco-Assessment Rating. This tool is able to measure the environmental impact of your packaging designs and advise a greener one. PEAR builds a quick and economical diagnostic of several options in terms of packaging (including different materials, volumes, sizes, thickness), logistics, end of life characteristics, etc.

Based on the life cycle analysis methodology, solutions like PEAR analyse the major stages of the packaging life cycle including raw materials, manufacture, transport and end of life and gives conclusions for about ten environmental factors such as global warming, eutrophication, acidification, etc. The client then receives a report with recommendations for packaging optimization.

Such assessment tools can help you optimise your packaging by considering the environmental aspects. But packaging still has to deliver functionality and protection for the product. Through various

testing procedures manufacturers can ensure their packaging complies with safety, performance and regulatory requirements.

Through a global network that includes 10 packaging labs in North America, Europe and Asia, SGS offers cost-effective and comprehensive solutions throughout the packaging life cycle. Our experts can assist you with technical and regulatory knowledge to set up testing, audit and certification strategies.

Learn more about how SGS can help you with [packaging ecodesign](#).

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GETTING THE LEAD OUT - WHY PRODUCT RECALLS PERSIST IN THE US

December 2008 marked a new era in toy safety in the US, with the introduction of mandatory third-party testing to measure the presence of lead in paint and surface coatings. That was quickly followed by new restrictions on permissible lead and lead paint content in toys and children's products. These cornerstone provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) of 2008 have been accompanied by a decline in lead-related recalls, but they have not yet wiped the lead slate clean.



In January and February of 2010 in the US there were five products recalled because of excessive lead levels, with the number of items involved in each recall ranging from 2,100 to 252,000, affecting some of the country's biggest retailers.

Yet the number of recalls involving violations of lead standards fell from 40 to 15 between fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Children's product recalls for all reasons fell by 50 percent during the same period. But there are still many CPSIA noncompliant products on the market. How can retailers help the industry reduce the number of reputation-damaging recalls even further?

VARIOUS RECALL REASONS

Some of the products involved in the recalls may have been manufactured before the CPSIA tightened lead regulations. Although noncompliant

products should have been removed from store or warehouse shelves after 10th February 2009, that may not have always happened. Older noncompliant products still in the pipeline may be subject to recall if the problem is detected.

Even the most meticulous manufacturing operation can encounter failures in screening raw materials or evaluating subcontractors. In the case of paint or other raw materials, the issue may be a failure to receive or examine test reports on every shipment. Neglecting these procedures even once can let products with too much lead slip through.

Like any manufacturing quality check, a lead inspection is a snapshot of a product that rolls off the assembly line at a specific point in time. When talking about production quantities in the tens or hundreds of thousands, there is more than a reasonable risk that a product that meets the CPSIA's lead standards early in the production run will fall out of compliance at a later point in the run if the factory does not have appropriate material and process controls in place.

IMPLEMENTATION DELAYS

While the new limits on lead content in children's products are etched in stone, independent third-party testing by an accredited lab is currently required only for lead in paint and other surface coatings. The third-party testing requirement for lead content in substrates that was originally due to go into effect in February 2009 has received two stays of enforcement, most recently in mid-December 2009, to address

industry concerns about the aggressive timetable. Mandatory third-party testing for substrates now is scheduled to take effect on 10th February 2011.

WHAT RETAILERS CAN DO

While retailers have no liability for products that violate the new lead thresholds based on assurance of compliance, it is recommended they ask manufacturers or importers for third-party test reports on lead in substrates and lead in paint or in-house reports if independent documentation is not available. If they cannot commit to supplying reports at the time of order placement, the retailer should consider having their own testing performed or cancelling the order.

Lead-related recalls may never vanish completely, but there are far fewer of them today than three years ago. With the upcoming enforcement of the delayed testing restrictions and a possible further reduction in permissible lead content in substrates to 100 ppm in August 2011, the industry will continue to face regulatory challenges. But the impact on public safety—not to mention public opinion—will be the reward.

Find more info on [CPSIA services](#).

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ECO ALTERNATIVES TO COTTON OR OTHER NATURAL FIBRES

Adverse weather conditions in recent years have resulted in decreased yields from organic and non organic cotton fields. These conditions and increasing global demands for cotton have resulted in reports of shortages in many parts of the world. The condition will extend to the future if both supply and demand remain unchanged.

Over the last five years, China has increased their domestic consumption of cotton by 20%. Production of cotton yarn in China will consume about 24 million tonnes of raw cotton annually. This is well above the 7 million tonnes of cotton that China is forecast to produce in 2010.

REGENERATE AND RECYCLE

Since the first garment made from cellulosic leaves, humans used natural resources to produce clothes for body protection. All clothing was made from natural fibres until the first artificial silk, named Viscose was developed in 1894. Viscose was made by regenerating cellulosic fibres. This process uses harsh chemicals and large amounts of water. The development of synthetic fibres such as Nylon and Polyester provided more alternatives to natural fibres. Nylon and Polyester are fibres that can be recycled and made into new fibre for clothing and other consumer products. Below are some facts about recycling of polyester that put the consumption side into perspective:

- 10 plastic bottles = 1 pound of polyester fibre
- 1 million plastic bottles recycled saves 250 barrels of oil
- Recycling plastic bottles takes 8 times less energy than to produce an equivalent amount of new ones
- 150 fleece garments made from recycled plastic bottles saves 1 barrel of oil
- Supplying the plastic bottles that Americans consume each year requires 47 million barrels of oil and releases 1 billion pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere.



Garments and fabric made from polyester can be recycled into new fibre and made into new fabrics and garments. Some brands and retailers such as Patagonia and REI collect their garments from consumers and then recycle them into fibre used in a new set of garments. The same can be done from off cuts and waste from the garment production process.

NEW ALTERNATIVE FIBRES

Lyocell was introduced to consumers in 1991 and was originally marketed as a type of Rayon. Lyocell is generated from cellulose in an environmentally friendly type of production. This makes Lyocell much more eco-friendly than other regenerated cellulosic fibres. Lyocell has many of the same properties as cotton.

Fabrics made from Lyocell are very soft and can have a texture similar to silk. They have excellent absorbency, and resistance to wrinkling as well as high strength. Lyocell fabrics can be easy to care for since they can be machine washed.

Bamboo fibre in its original natural form has appearance and functional properties similar to ramie, but it is even finer and thinner. The cross-section of the natural bamboo fibre is filled with various micro-gaps and micro-holes, giving it very good moisture absorption and ventilation. These features enable high breatheability, which allows for the products to be cool and comfortable to the skin. The production of bamboo requires no pesticides and fertilizers, emits 30% more oxygen than leaf-trees, and requires less energy and less water to grow than cotton.

Find more info on SGS services for the [Textile Industry](#).

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IS GREEN THE NEW BLACK? THE RISE AND RISE OF ECO-FASHION

What is the fashion of the future? Whatever we will be wearing in 20 years, eco-innovation is likely to be key to the clothing industry if it is to adapt to growing pressures on resources and increasing consumer demand for green products. Recyclability, reusability, recycled fibres, new sustainable sources of fibre, organic dyes, greener manufacturing systems... how will your company ADAPT?



The footprint along the global supply chain of the textiles industry includes high energy use from washing and tumble drying, water use, toxicity from pesticides, unwanted clothing waste disposed in landfills, and social inequities. DEFRA, the environment department in the UK, is leading an initiative called the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP), which aims to research the impacts of clothing and work with business to reduce these impacts. In order to collect evidence, a life cycle approach was adopted using life cycle assessment (LCA).

THE LARGE SIZE FOOTPRINT OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Initial research highlighted the significant amount of energy consumed and GHG emissions produced from the washing and drying of clothing by the consumer, with cotton requiring more intense washing and much longer drying times than synthetic materials such as polyester. The processing of synthetic fibres from fossil fuels also causes considerable energy use, GHG emissions and resource depletion when compared to cotton production.

Evidence shows that conventional cotton growing has a high water impact from irrigation and toxicity impact from pesticides and fertilizer use. The production stage of the clothing life cycle has a significant environmental impact, particularly from the dyes and finishes. The majority of waste clothing and textiles ends up in landfill areas, and non-synthetic materials can release methane, contributing to the climate change impact.

ECO-FASHION IS CATCHING ON

The SCAP contains many calls to action by government, industry and consumers, to address these issues, including ways of reducing clothing packaging, increasing the recovery of unwanted clothing, supporting the usage of sustainable fibres and fabrics, low impact laundering and improving traceability on ethics across the clothing supply chain. Some of the biggest names in mass fashion globally are working to reduce their impact. For example, Tesco has launched a new

online capsule Sustainable Fashion range in collaboration with recycling fashion pioneers, From Somewhere. Continental Clothing has reduced the carbon footprint of their organic (EarthPositive®) T-shirt range by 90%.

Adidas and Nike are developing innovations on sustainable design tools and techniques while Levi Strauss has joined the group to research care labels for its products to educate consumers. Marks & Spencer, Tesco and Next in the UK have supported a project to monitor and reduce environmental impacts in Indian dye houses.

These are just some examples of projects the textiles businesses are involved in. There is a long way to go until these ideas become mainstream. The first step is to know your products, supply chains and impacts, then find ways of reducing these impacts whilst ensuring products still function as intended and appeal to the fashion conscious masses.

If you would like advice on assessing the impacts using a life cycle approach or carbon footprint, or comparing materials with more sustainable alternatives, contact the [SGS Ecodesign team](#) for information.

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SANDBLASTING UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT: PROTECTING WORKERS' HEALTH IN THE JEANS INDUSTRY

While sandblasting was legally prohibited in the European Union in 1962, factories in the main production countries are still using this technique to meet consumers' expectations of achieving a worn and faded look for jeans.

As a reminder, the sandblasting technique consists of using pressurized air to spray solid particles (aluminium oxide, silica sand or others) against garments to abrade the fabric.

Outside the EU, where many countries have no regulations in force to protect workers from the harmful effects of this process, factories sometimes do not take the identified risks into consideration. This results in a lack of implementation of basic protective measures such as workers' training and the provision or enforcement of use of appropriate protective equipment.

SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS

In Turkey, the announcement of the death of 40 sandblasters from silicosis last January pointed out the critical effects of the sandblasting process on workers' health.

Silicosis is a form of occupational lung disease caused by the inhalation of crystalline silica dust. Poor working conditions wherever silica is used can lead to incurable silicosis. Traditionally common among miners, and workers in the glass, ceramics and construction industries, there is now an increasing incidence in the garment sector due to the growing fashion for special finishes on denim and the associated increase in the number of factories and workshops undertaking this process. While manual sandblasting of denim fabric was legally prohibited in April, 2009 in Turkey, key production countries such as China, India and Bangladesh still have no specific ban on the use of sandblasting in the garment industry.



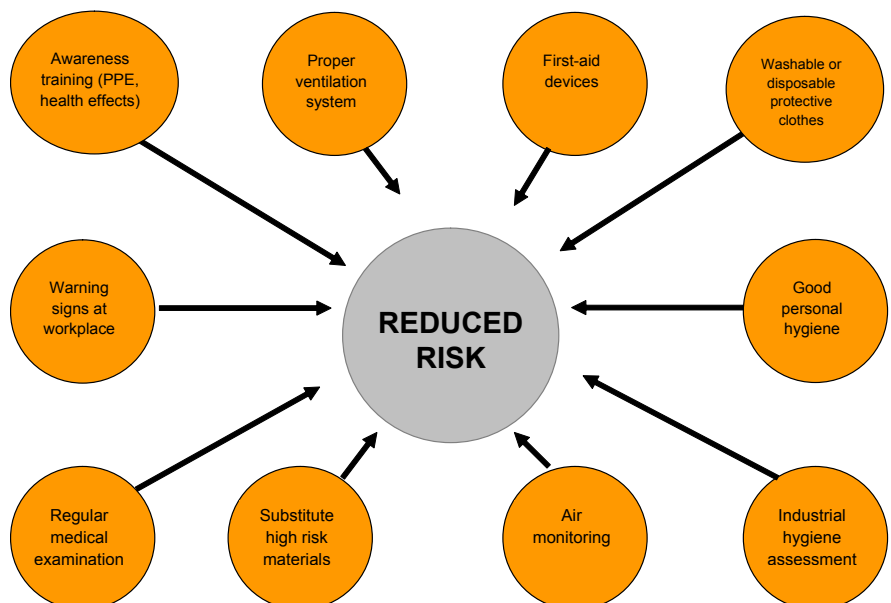
SOLUTIONS

Where the process is still permitted, preventative measures can be put in place to reduce the risks to workers. These can include isolation chambers to keep workers away from the sandblasting process, substituting high risk materials with less hazardous ones as well as providing specific, targeted protection to the workforce. SGS audits can review processes in place, advising

both on the legal requirements and the effectiveness of preventative measures.

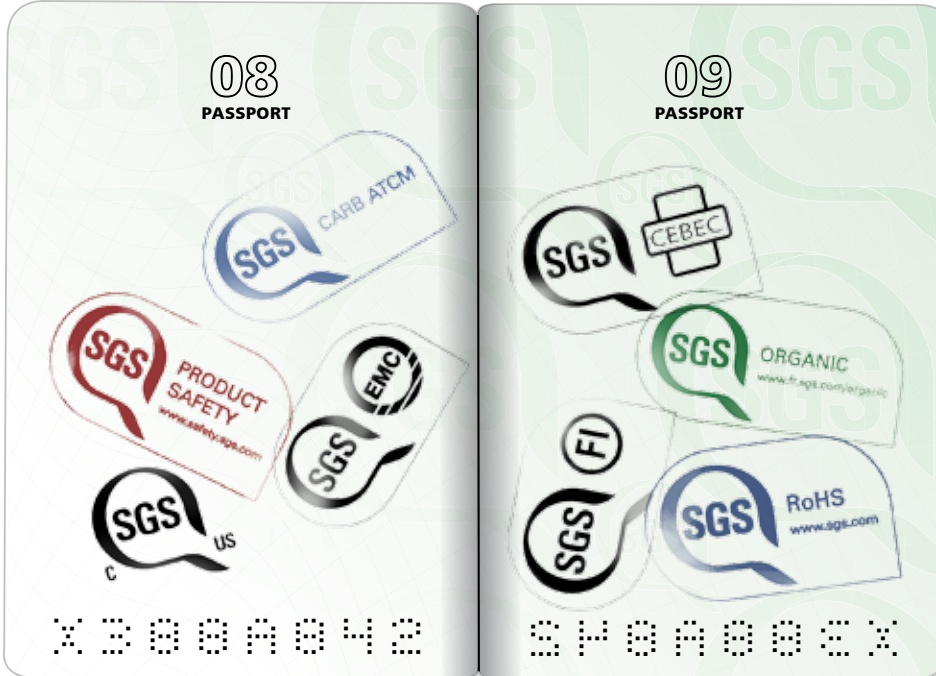
Find more information on [SGS Social Responsibility Solutions](#).

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Best practice recommendations to protect workers from occupational diseases caused by sandblasting.

QUALITY THAT WILL TAKE YOU ANYWHERE



This new design will be more easily recognised and remembered by consumers, delivering a return on your investment in quality and safety certification. The new marks employ a simple and straightforward design which reinforces the 'Q' in quality. The new design was introduced on 3 May 2010.

For more info visit: www.sgs.com/productmarks or contact: consumer.products@sgs.com.

A new look for a certification mark that will continue to open markets and win you customers

SGS is introducing a new design for product certification marks so that you can clearly demonstrate your commitment to quality and safety.

SGS CHINA OPENS AUTOMOTIVE PART LAB



The new SGS-CSTC Auto Part Lab located in Kanqiao testing centre in Shanghai, China was officially opened 3 March.

The attendees, including government officials, automotive associations representatives, senior management of over 40 OEMs and well-known tier 1 suppliers showed great interest in SGS's

automotive testing capabilities, including the delivery of one-stop testing services with a unified quality standard in China. The new lab is a further indication of SGS-CSTC's commitment to become a strong partner for the automotive industry.

The over USD 2 million invested in the 1,200 sq. meters lab enables SGS-CSTC to perform environmental, mechanical reliability and durability tests, as well as functional and fatigue test services for entire vehicles, core parts, interior and exterior parts and raw materials.

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SGS SOLAR TESTHOUSE OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening ceremony of the SGS Solar Testhouse, the new SGS photovoltaic laboratory in Hartha, Germany, took place on 30 March 2010.



More than 70 solar industry experts, including research centres and suppliers joined the event and experienced firsthand the high level of service, the expertise and testing equipment available at this new PV test lab. Visitors also had the chance to attend presentations on "Quality of test results" and "Product Bankability". Since receiving its accreditation at the end of 2009, SGS Solar Testhouse has had its testing capabilities booked at full capacity by PV module manufacturers from Europe, Asia and the US.

To answer the growing testing needs of the solar market, SGS is already investing in expanding the existing testing capacities. The ribbon-cutting ceremony at SGS Solar Testhouse was aimed at offering participants a chance to establish new contacts and to plan partnerships, while showcasing the strength and potential of SGS Solar Testing Services.

For more info contact: solar@sgs.com



SGS COMPLETES RENOVATION OF ITS US CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES LAB

April marked the completion of a six month renovation of SGS's U.S. lab in Fairfield, N.J, aimed at increasing on-site resources and capabilities for servicing US clients.

The expanded lab provides performance, standards compliance, certification and other testing services for consumer goods including children's toys, car seats, bicycle helmets, electrical products, medical devices, paper and packaging, and textiles. An accompanying growth in technical staff also provides customers local resources for expediting requests.

Lab upgrades completed during the renovation include:

- AN EXPANDED TOY TESTING LAB capable of accommodating oversized products, such as larger playground and outdoor equipment, while also bringing chemical, mechanical and physical testing under one roof.
- A REMODELLED PACKAGING/MATERIALS LAB - featuring environmental chambers, expanded medical packaging testing, and increased efficiencies resulting in one-third faster turnaround time. The packaging test lab is International Safe Transit Association (ISTA) accredited.
- AN ON-SITE CHEMICALS ANALYSIS LAB - enabling an enhanced detection of substance limits to support the latest regulatory requirements and a reduction in the sample sizes required for testing.



For more info contact: uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

SGS HONG KONG DELIVERS COLOUR VISION TEST PROGRAMME IN 2010

The programme assesses the candidates' colour deficiency, colour discrimination ability and the ability to interpret coloured samples.

This intensive and cost-effective programme provides employers with information about a candidate's colour skills. The program consists of 3 types of colour vision assessments:

- ISHIHARA TEST - for colour blindness. The Ishihara Colour Charts are accepted by authorities worldwide as a simple and accurate test for colour blindness.
- FARNSWORTH-MUNSELL 100-HUE TEST - a simple method for evaluating "Colour Discrimination" ability. Colour vision abnormalities and aptitude are detected by the ability of the test subject to place the colour caps in order of hue.
- PHYSICAL SAMPLE ASSESSMENT - a pair of coloured fabrics which match when viewed under one light source and may differ under another light source – a phenomenon known as illuminant metamerism.

Colour vision and assessment skills are important for anyone involved in the visual assessment of colour especially in colour related businesses: as textiles, printing, graphic design and cosmetics. For more info contact: hk.mktg@sgs.com

HAVE YOUR PRODUCTS EPA WATERSENSESM MARKED



WaterSenseSM is a partnership programme administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encouraging efficient water use and innovation in product design to conserve Earth's fresh water resources.

With the WaterSenseSM label you can easily identify water-efficient, high-

performance products. SGS Consumer Testing Services in the US is a licensed certifying body by the US EPA to provide product certification to WaterSenseSM criteria. Our plumbing labs are fully capable of providing local lab testing and factory verification services to support our clients in obtaining EPA WaterSenseSM Certification. Testing services for faucets and high efficiency toilets are available in the US (Tulsa,

OK) and China (Shanghai) labs, to fulfil client needs at points of production and distribution. Through SGS WaterSense certification you access a ONE STOP service for Water Consumption Products: Water Sense certification, plumbing product performance certification, laboratory testing, and factory auditing/inspection services. For more info contact: ryan.mao@sgs.com in China or frank.buyna@sgs.com in the US.

SGS INDIA ADDS NEW FIRE TEST METHOD

SGS India recently added the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) Test Method 701 TM1; Fire Test for Flame Propagation of Textiles to their list of capabilities.

NFPA 701-TM 1 applies to single layer fabrics and to multilayer curtain and drapery assemblies in which the layers are fastened together by sewing or other

means. As part of the test method, 10 randomly selected samples of textile and other materials are tested for flame propagation after coming in contact with a gas flame for a duration 45 seconds. The percentage mass loss is recorded and used as a measure of the total flame propagation and specimen damage. Items to which the test applies include, but are not limited to:

- Window curtains
- Stage or theatre curtains
- Vertical folding shades
- Roll type window shades
- Hospital privacy curtains
- Fabric vertical shades or blinds
- Horizontal folding shades
- Window draperies
- Swags

For more info contact: cts.softlines@sgs.com

FROM QUALITY TO FOOD SAFETY: A RESPONSIBLE DESTINATION

SGS and the (ACIF-CCIM) presented the seminar "From Quality to Food Safety: A Responsible Destination", last February, in Funchal, Madeira.

The panel of prestigious national and international speakers addressed the principles of hospitality and food safety. The highlight of the event was the official presentation in Madeira of the Hygiene

Monitored Mark, by Adrian Evans, Global Hospitality Manager for SGS. Adrian highlighted the advantages of this system due to its flexibility, the possibility for benchmarking, the positive impact on a food safety culture in organizations and its international recognition. In Madeira, Hygiene Monitored is a collaboration between SGS and ACIF-CCIM. Adrian Evans believes that this collaboration "will benefit all companies that obtain the mark, because there is no other standard like

Seminário Da Qualidade à Segurança Alimentar Um destino responsável



Hygiene Monitored in the food sector". Find out more about [SGS Food Safety Services](#)

SGS EXHIBITOR AT INTERSOLAR EUROPE 2010



SGS showcases its services for the solar industry at Intersolar Europe 2010, the world's largest solar industry fair, taking place at the New Munich Trade Fair Centre in Munich, Germany, June 9 to 11.

"connecting solar business" is the event's slogan and there are plenty of opportunities for the round 60,000 visitors to do just that. The three-day event gathers the best photovoltaic industry has to offer and it's a unique chance to see all the latest innovations.

At STAND 279 in HALL B, SGS presents its full package of services covering the entire value chain of photovoltaic projects. Together with the essential inspection, verification, testing and certification steps, SGS's Project Life Cycle Services ensure fabrication, transportation, installation and commissioning of solar modules installations, meet the required safety and quality standards.

For more info contact: solar@sgs.com

SGS INDIA AT INTERNATIONAL TOY BIZ 2010

SGS India was one of the exhibitors at the only B2B Toy Expo in the Indian Sub-Continent and third largest in Asia. The event was held at India Expo Centre, Noida, Delhi, between 7 - 10 May.

A total of around 60 exhibitors, including manufacturers, wholesalers, importers,

exporters and distributors from India and abroad presented their products and solutions to approximately 4,000 visitors. The event provided a platform for direct interaction between foreign and domestic manufacturers, distributors, retailers and regulatory bodies. SGS's stand received special attention as it exhibited LIVE some basic toy testing. For more info contact: hltesting.india@sgs.com



SAFEGUARDS

SafeGuards, are SGS technical bulletins concentrating on new product standards, regulations and test methods. They are written by SGS experts and dispatched on a weekly basis. Below you can find a selection of the most important SafeGuards titles from the past weeks. TO STAY ON TOP OF ALL REGULATORY CHANGES WITHIN YOUR INDUSTRY [subscribe to the SafeGuards technical bulletin](#).

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

- NEW IEC TEST STANDARD FOR MERCURY LIMITS IN ENERGY SAVING LAMP - [read the bulletin](#)
- LATEST RoHS EXEMPTION DEVELOPMENTS - [read the bulletin](#)

FOOD

- US FDA ISSUES NEW SAFETY RULES FOR SHELL EGGS - [read the bulletin](#)
- (FLUORO)QUINOLONES IN EDIBLE AQUATIC ANIMALS - [read the bulletin](#)
- ACCREDITED SENSORY EVALUATION OF FOOD - [read this bulletin](#)

HARDLINES

- CPSIA UPDATE 33: NEW US RULES FOR TESTING AND LABELING OF CERTIFIED PRODUCTS - [read the bulletin](#)
- US LEGISLATION FOR CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELERY - [read the bulletin](#)
- A GLANCE INTO THE FUTURE OF CADMIUM RESTRICTIONS UNDER REACH - [read the bulletin](#)

SOFTLINES

- GB 18401-2003: CHINA NATIONAL GENERAL SAFETY STANDARD FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS - [read the bulletin](#)
- CHILDREN'S CLOTHES ARE STILL UNSAFE - [read the bulletin](#)

Browse the SafeGuards library: www.sgs.com/safeguards



PRODUCT RECALLS

NEW! SGS Product Recalls is now offered for no charge, and is included twice per month in SafeGuards publication. SGS compiles recall cases notified in the EU, US and Australia for consumer goods. They can help you minimize costly recalls by increasing your awareness of recall cases related to your business.

Browse the Product Recalls library: www.sgs.com/productrecalls

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