

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

SOFTLINES

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GET IN STEP WITH TAIWAN'S REQUIREMENT: MARKET SURVEY OF PLASTIC SHOES

Taiwan's Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) conducted a market compliancy survey on plastic shoes sold in the island-state.¹ BSMI inspected and tested 21 pairs of plastic shoes, some of which did not comply with the relevant standard or requirement. Details of this market survey have been published in the press and non-compliant products have been named. Non-compliant products have been recalled, destroyed or refused shipment by BSMI.

During this market surveillance exercise, BSMI benchmarked the phthalate and polyaromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs) requirements as set forth in the CNS 3478 (Plastic shoes),² which is summarised in Table 1. In addition, the labelling of footwear was inspected against the legal requirement of Labelling Criteria of Shoes.

REQUIREMENT IN CNS 3478 (PLASTIC SHOES)

According to this standard, plastic footwear must comply with the phthalate and PAH requirements (see Table 1) as well as a range of physical performance requirements. The performance requirements include, but are not limited to general workmanship of the footwear, tensile strength of the sole, bursting strength and peeling strength of the upper material. The full requirements can be viewed in the standard at www.cnsonline.com.tw.

1. [BSMI Press Release \(in Chinese\)](#).

2. [CNS 3478 \(Plastic Shoes\) \(available in Chinese and English\)](#), CNS Online.



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TABLE 1: CHEMICAL REQUIREMENT WITHIN CNS 3478

SUBSTANCES	TEST METHODS	REQUIREMENTS
Phthalates	With reference to CNS 15138 ⁴	DEHP + DBP + BBP + DINP + DIDP + DNOP ≤ 0.1 % (w/w)
PAHs	As prescribed in CNS 3478	Benzo(a) pyrene ≤ 1 mg/kg Sum of 16 PAHs ≤ 10 mg/kg

MANDATORY OBLIGATION UNDER LABELLING CRITERIA OF SHOES

All footwear products which are sold in the Taiwanese market must conform to this mandatory requirement. According to this law, the following information must be written in Chinese and can be supplemented in foreign language(s).

- Product name,
- Name, address and telephone number of the manufacturer or importer,
- Country of origin (or country where the majority of production occurs),
- Main material of the upper and sole,
- Size.

The above labelling information must be printed onto the product itself or on a sewn-on label, a sticker or a hangtag. As for the country of origin, not only does it need to comply with the abovementioned requirement, the information must be placed in a conspicuous location and must be either branded, ironed onto or

printed onto the product itself or printed on a sewn-on tag. This requirement does not apply to indoor disposable footwear which are made out of paper or fabrics.

SGS will follow-up and keep interested parties informed on the latest Taiwanese regulations update and market trends. Throughout a world-wide network of laboratories and offices, we are able to offer extensive and comprehensive testing and consultancy services on footwear and textile products for the Taiwanese and other international markets. For more information on our services, please feel free to contact us or visit [our website](#).

³ [Labelling Criteria of Shoes, Commerce Industrial Services Portal, Ministry of Economic Affairs, in Chinese; in English](#). Please be advised that should there be any discrepancy between the Chinese and the English version, the Chinese version shall prevail.

⁴ [CNS 15138 \(Method of Test for the Determination of Plasticiser from Plastic Toys\) \(available in Chinese and English\), CNS Online](#).

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre: gpsc@sgs.com
 HK—Ruth Hon, Tel: +852 2774 7148 or Ruth.Hon@sgs.com
 TW—Johnson Huang, Tel: +886 7 3012121, 4010 or Johnson.Huang@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 mktg.hk@sgs.com
 Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 au.cts@sgs.com
 Europe – London —UK. Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 203 00 7870 gb.cts.sales@sgs.com
 Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 sgs.turkey@sgs.com
 Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

www.sgs.com/cts Global Competence Support Centre: gpsc@sgs.com
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