

SAFE GUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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BELGIUM AND FRANCE PROHIBIT FORMAMIDE IN PUZZLE MATS

In December 2010, Belgium and France were the first Member States to announce the removal of puzzle mats from shelves due to excessive quantities of formamide (CAS 75-12-7), a substance classified as reprotoxic (toxic to reproduction).

In December 2010, Belgium became the first European Country to ban formamide in foam puzzle mats. On 10 December 2010, the Minister for Consumer Protection, Mr Paul Magnette, announced the removal of such products from the Belgian markets after tests revealed the majority of such products sold emit excessive levels of harmful particles, including formamide¹. Those who continue to sell risk a fine of up to € 20, 000. He also instructed his administration to take all necessary measures to ensure the withdrawal and also to check at distributors. The possible reintroduction of puzzle mats on the market may be on a case to case basis and manufacturers will be obliged to prove that the product does not contain traces of harmful substances. In 2009, the Belgian magazine, Test-Achats published a study warning foam puzzle mats containing harmful substances including formamide².

On 13 December 2010, France, following the decision by Belgium, also decided to suspend the marketing of such products for three months³.

SGS will follow-up and inform about developments on regulations or policies in consumer products as a complementary service.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for formamide and other restricted substances in toys and other consumer products for the EU and international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

¹ [Les tapis-puzzle en mousse interdits à la vente](#), 10 December 2010, ftbf.be

² [Tapis-puzzle toxiques retirés du commerce](#), Test-Achats

³ [Legifrance- Arrêté du 14 décembre 2010](#)

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