

CONSUMER COMPACT

THE CONSUMER PRODUCT PUBLICATION THAT KEEPS YOU INFORMED

SEPTEMBER • 2011

SOURCING, SAFETY AND THE SUPPLY CHAIN



REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WITH GREEN PROCURING
PLAY IT SAFE WITH PRODUCT DESIGN ANALYSIS
PHTHALATES CONTAMINATION IN FOOD PRODUCTS

SGS

DEAR READER,

Regardless of whether you are a supplier or end product manufacturer, an importer or retailer, ensuring safety and high levels of quality throughout your supply chain should always be one of your top priorities. The way your supply chain functions impacts not only your product and your reputation, but also the environment, the lives of consumers and also that of the people who work within your supply chain.

This new CONSUMER COMPACT presents you various ways of improving supply chain efficiency throughout various industries, helping you save resources without sacrificing quality and safety.

See the range of SGS services designed for consumer products at: www.sgs.com/cts

SGS CTS Marketing Team

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ENSURING SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

While the expansion of global trade has created affordable products, produced new business opportunities, and helped some regions develop, it has also brought about its share of issues. From the early 2000s, reports of labour abuse in the factories where their goods were manufactured have affected the reputation, sales and profitability of large global brands and resulted in an increase in consumer awareness over labour standards. Today, not only consumers, but investors and stakeholders at large, expect organisations to respect labour standards and behave in a socially responsible manner.

IMPLEMENTING CODES OF CONDUCT THROUGHOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Guaranteeing acceptable conditions in a global supply chain can be a complex challenge. Developing countries are at different stages of industrialisation and in some regions good practices are only beginning to emerge. As part of their efforts to demonstrate ethical practices, many large companies and global brands are integrating codes of conduct and guidelines into their corporate cultures and management systems. Through these, corporations are making demands on their suppliers (facilities, farms, subcontracted services such as cleaning, canteen, security etc.) and verifying, through social audits, that they are complying with the required standard.

Today, thousands of corporate codes of conduct exist, the majority of which are based on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions. These codes of conduct and standards are usually the result of intense negotiation between interested stakeholders and strongly reflect the organisations that developed them. Suppliers however often express concern at the multiplicity of audits and duplication of effort, which may contribute to hindering the improvement of conditions in the workplace. In order to minimize this, the trend has been for commercial organisations with shared goals to come together, agree on common codes of conduct and share information. An increasing number of initiatives now seek to drive forward consistency of standards and processes. The EICC

(Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition), ICTI (International Council of Toy Industries), RJC (Responsible Jewellery Council), to name just a few, are all examples of joint efforts by specific industries to harmonise their requests towards their suppliers.

MORE SUPPORT FOR SUPPLY CHAINS IS REQUIRED

It is expected that the coming years will still see large numbers of audits but that new schemes will also come into place to further support suppliers to improve labour conditions. It is indeed generally accepted that, despite strong efforts to consolidate best audit practices and lead suppliers to improvement, audits alone are not a driver for improvement of workplace conditions. Overall, suppliers in many parts of the world need more support to attain the standards that are required from them. Distributors and brands will be looking at new schemes and models and will work together with their suppliers to address the root causes of their challenges in order to engage into longer term business relationship and implement sustainable supply chains.

With more than 400 auditors with social accountability expertise and an extensive knowledge of all major codes of conduct, SGS is a partner of choice on social audits, training and compliance initiatives. We are also committed to supporting new schemes and developing new services to assist companies on their sustainability journey.



For more information on how SGS can help, visit:

www.sgs.com/socialresponsibility

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REDUCING RISK AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THROUGH THE SUPPLY CHAIN

More and more organizations are looking at their supply chain to demonstrate environmental and social commitments in order to monitor and report on their performance. This is because governments, consumers and non-governmental organizations are expecting companies to take more responsibility for where their products come from. Green procurement (GP) can help meet these expectations, it can help reduce the risk of brand/reputation damage from potentially non-conforming suppliers and can also become a competitive advantage.

THE VARIOUS PATHS TO GREEN PROCUREMENT

The approaches to Green Procurement (GP) have taken various shapes; with organizations developing their own internal standards and performance tools to assess supply chains; as well as public bodies such as the European Union and the UK government providing guidance and policy on their own public procurement.

Green procurement essentially refers to any environmental tool or criteria that an organization uses to interact with and assess its supply chain. Organizations have tended to take one of two approaches to the idea of GP, or a combined approach.

ONE COMMON METHOD is a product based approach where an organization concentrates on one or more of its products or services and assesses their environmental credentials and thus the credentials of suppliers for those product or services (i.e. the raw material supply). This path is used when an organization wants to better understand a specific product or product range for marketing or strategic purposes. It can also help to thoroughly evaluate a particular supplier's processes.

A SECOND COMMON METHOD involves evaluating the management practices and legal conformance of a supplier to see whether an organization is at risk from its suppliers (risk posed to the brand or its environmental claims/credentials). An organization may wish to know that a supplier has the correct procedures or policies in place to perform to that organization's standard or to the

legal minimum requirements in another (more stringent) market. This method helps profile suppliers and is useful when exploring large numbers and complex supply chains.

Figure 1 shows the Umbrella Scope of Green Procurement.

When selecting one of these methods it is important to know what you are aiming to achieve and what green procurement means to your organization. You need to know what criteria are the most important to you and your customers.

TOOLS TO SUPPORT YOUR GP STRATEGY

There is no one approach right to Green Procurement, but there are different tools available to help assess your most important suppliers, be it to improve performance or to measure risks. These tools include: carbon footprinting, life cycle assessments of a product/service from cradle to grave, following a product down the supply chain, systems certification and suppliers' trainings to meet external standards (e.g. ISO14001),

and other tools as shown in Figure 1.

Without a proper understanding of the key areas and criteria for your business to focus on and without a careful selection of the appropriate tools, you may not obtain the Green Procurement results you wanted.

GET THE BEST SUPPORT AVAILABLE

SGS experts can help define a local procurement strategy and develop training and awareness programs for buyers and suppliers. Our sustainability experts can assist organizations at every step throughout their supply chains by assessing the most significant impacts through analysis of product life cycles and/or supply chain impacts.

For more info on SGS can support your Green Procurement initiative, take a look at our [SGS Sustainability Services portfolio](#).

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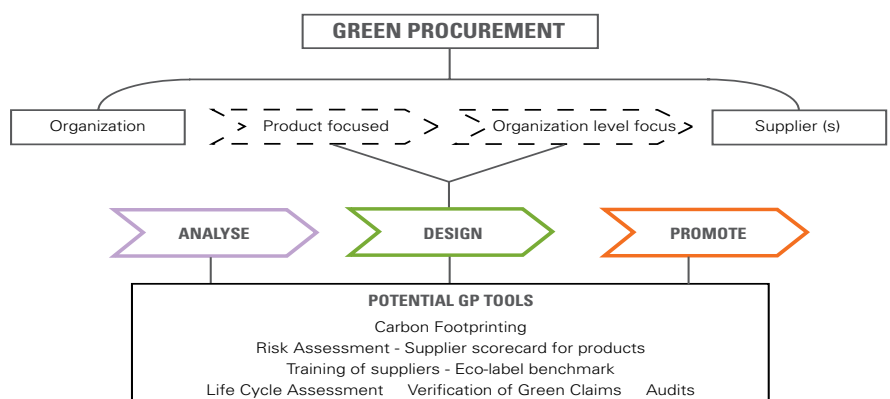


Figure1. The Umbrella Scope of Green Procurement

COMMUNICATION THE KEY TO REACH

A key element of the European chemicals regulation "REACH" (EC 1907/2006), which regulates the manufacture, marketing, and use of potentially hazardous chemicals in the EU, is the communication in the supply chain in both directions – both from suppliers to customers and back up through the supply chain.



The main aim for doing so is the exchange of information regarding health and safety for humans and the environment. This information needs to be based on a safety assessment which requires that all relevant uses need to be collected from all levels in the supply chain and the results fed back into the chain.

A major challenge in the communication process is that REACH not only affects manufacturers and importers of the chemicals and preparations themselves, but also companies, such as retailers, who deal only with articles which may contain these substances.

THE COMPLEX REQUIREMENTS WITHIN REACH

Contrary to some companies' understanding, REACH encompasses various legal requirements, which may or may not be applicable to any

company's business. In this respect it is important to note that many of today's consumer products are made from chemical-based rather than natural products. The obligation for registering substances under REACH is aimed at preventing chemicals from being marketed throughout the EU, without taking account of their hazardous properties. The chemicals present in the products we use on a daily basis, which are known to have hazardous properties, are also targeted by REACH through information requirements in the supply chain, restrictions for certain uses, and through bans of using certain substances.

Many companies are overwhelmed both by the extensive regulatory issues covered by REACH and their applicability to their own business, as well in deciding and implementing individual steps to implement a strategic system to manage their regulatory obligations under REACH.

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

SGS can help you to understand how REACH applies to your company and what steps you need to take to manage REACH as part of your regular business compliance process. Let SGS help put you in control of your REACH obligations in an efficient and cost effective way. Our services range from consultancy and training, to practical hands on implementation of managing your REACH duties, including your communication throughout the supply chain, as well as due diligence and analytical testing when you need to be sure.

Please feel free to contact us for more information on [REACH](#).

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PHTHALATES CONTAMINATION IN FOOD PRODUCTS

On 23 May 2011, the Taiwan Department of Health (DOH) discovered that Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), an industrial chemical used to soften plastic packaging, was being used in a clouding agent in several brands of beverages in violation of Taiwan regulations prohibiting the addition of DEHP to food products. The clouding agent involved is a legal food additive that is used to make beverages such as fruit juices more visually appealing, but the banned DEHP was reported to have been added to replace more expensive palm oil.¹

Subsequent investigation revealed the presence of DEHP as well as another type of phthalate called Di-isobutyl phthalate (DINP) in additional food products. That was the beginning of a series of developments calling attention to the issue of phthalates in food and the need for testing to protect consumers against phthalate-related health hazards. Chronologically:

ON 28 MAY 2011

The Taiwan DOH announced that any DEHP-contaminated sports drinks, tea drinks, fruit juice, fruit jam/fruit nectar or jelly - as well as any DEHP-contaminated food in tablet/capsule/powder form - must be removed from store shelves.²

Taiwan then established a standard of 1 ppm for six phthalates (DEHP, DIDP, DINP, BBP, DBP, DNOP) and China established standards of DBP 0.3 ppm; DINP 9 ppm; and DEHP 1.5 ppm. (Currently the international acceptance criteria for the daily maximum consumption of phthalates range from 0.6-30 mg for a 60 kg adult, depending on the phthalate compound).³

ON 29 MAY 2011

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) issued an advisory about the DEHP problem in Taiwan, followed by an alert two days later and recalls of multiple products imported from Taiwan throughout the month of June.⁴

ON 5 JUNE 2011

China suspended the import of 858 kinds of food products made by 55 companies in Taiwan, including beverages, food products and food additives.⁵

ON 21 JUNE 2011

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) was informed by DOH that 57 items with phthalate contamination had been shipped to the United States. FDA was monitoring the situation to assess any impact on the U.S. food supply.⁶

Also on 21 June 2011, Australia withdrew an asparagus juice that had been identified as one of the products made with plasticizer-contaminated emulsifiers in Taiwan.⁷

ON 23 JUNE 2011

The Taiwan DOH reported the export of contaminated products to 22 countries and regions (USA, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Philippines, Australia, Malaysia, South Africa, Argentina, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Macao, Singapore, Egypt, Marshall Islands, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Brazil, Brunei, Japan), totaling 34 manufacturers and 206 products.⁸

BY 18 JULY 2011

The Taiwan DOH had identified 315 manufacturers and 877 products with illegal phthalates in them.⁹ Phthalates are widely used to enhance elasticity and flexibility in plastic products such as polyvinylchloride (PVC). In many research studies, high levels of DEHP have been shown to damage the liver, kidneys, and/or reproductive abilities.

Tolerable daily DEHP intakes are shown in Table 1 below, with the no-observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) for reproductive and developmental effects at 4.8 mg/kg body weight per day. Taiwan DOH has publicized a standard method for the determination of phthalate plasticizers in food by using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS-MS).

SGS's global testing network can help you check food for phthalates by carrying out measurements on a wide range of plasticizers utilizing state-of-the-art high resolution instruments. Please contact us for more information.

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Table 1. Overview table of critical toxic effects and Tolerable Daily Intakes (TDI)

Phthalate	Critical Toxic Effect on	TDI (in mg per kg body weight per day)
DEHP	Reproduction	0.05
BBP	Reproduction and development	0.5
DBP		0.01
DINP	Liver	0.15
DIDP		
DNOP	Liver and Thyroid	No TDI available
DIBP	Reproduction and development	

¹ FDA Joint Investigation Found Food Additive Tainted with DEHP

² Investigation Update 2011-05-28 – Food Contaminated with Plasticizer

³ Illegal Addition of Plasticizer to Food

⁴ CFIA Certain Foods and Beverages Imported from Taiwan may Contain Phthalates

⁵ Ban extended to more Taiwan food imports

⁶ FDA warns of Taiwanese food, beverages imports with unapproved ingredient

⁷ Taiwan food contamination reaches Australia

⁸ Cross-departmental Meeting (19th) for Food Safety (Cloudy Agent with Plasticizer)

⁹ List of products with cloudy agents contaminated by plasticizer.

EHEC OUTBREAK IN GERMANY - A DETECTIVE STORY

Since early May 2011, consumers in 12 countries including Germany, other European and even North American regions have faced an outbreak of enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* (EHEC). By July 22 authorities had registered 50 fatalities and 4318 infections connected to EHEC¹ with new infections still being reported. Based on the beginning of diarrhoea symptoms, the disease peak was on May 22. The number of related infections has now declined. Over a two-month period, authorities followed the outbreak like detectives to trace the infection to its source. They finally linked the origin of the infection to sprouts of fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt.²

THE DANGEROUS EHEC STRAIN

The first sign of a problem occurred on May 19 when the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) reported an increase in cases of a severe illness called hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS) that can destroy blood cells and potentially lead to kidney failure. Six days later, on May 25 following an analysis of the first patient samples, the root cause of the outbreak was linked to bacteria *Escherichia coli* O104:H4, a rare enterohemorrhagic strain which produces cytotoxins or so called Shiga-like toxins. Illness can be caused by just a small number of these bacteria, and immediate medical treatment may be necessary. Immediately after the bacteria strain was isolated and identified, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) gave an alert, and the RKI and the German Institute of Risk Assessment (BfR) warned against consuming tomatoes, leaf salad and cucumbers as potential sources of contamination.¹

A positive EHEC result on May 26 for Spanish cucumber strengthened the suspicion, but could not be confirmed because the identified strains could not be linked to the infections. Although the RKI and BfR had reason to believe that the outbreak was connected to certain foodstuff, direct infection from animals to humans was also possible.^{1,2}

A HUGE DEMAND FOR FOOD TESTS

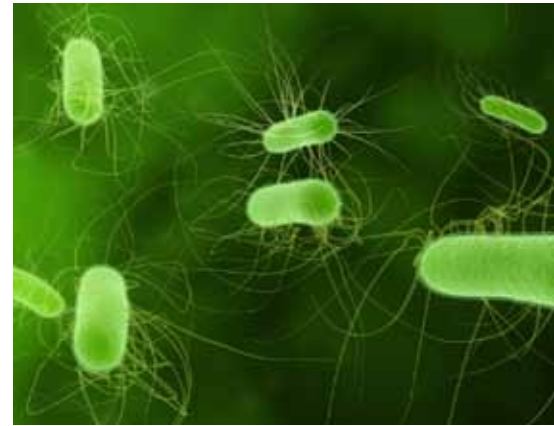
Meanwhile, as a result of the warning, authorities and food producers sent a huge number of samples to testing

laboratories to identify the origin of the infection. SGS, which has test procedures to detect EHEC bacteria, was the recipient of many of these samples. Dr. Roy Hörner, laboratory manager at SGS Germany in Hamburg, was faced with massive testing volumes over a short period of time.

"We routinely perform extensive microbiological analyses for pathogenic organisms in our accredited laboratories. The analysis for EHEC is usually done by the detection of the Shiga-like toxins (ELISA) or characteristic genes (PCR)," Dr. Hörner noted. "After the crisis in northern Germany came up, we were faced with a lot of requests to perform tests for the detection of EHEC. The microbiological laboratory team devoted considerable efforts to build up the capacity for the increased number of samples while ensuring an absolutely safe laboratory process. This was successfully implemented in only a few days. We were able to support our clients during the crisis with reliable analyses and short turnaround times. Several hundred samples were analysed during those days, and this helped our clients to fulfil the internal and external requirements for quality control."

THE BREAKTHROUGH

Despite these efforts, the origin of the infection could not be identified. Then on June 5, based on epidemiological data, the RKI pinpointed sprouts as the suspected source. Employees of a horticultural farm in Lower Saxony were found positive for *Escherichia coli* O104:H4, 2 but additional time was required to demonstrate a direct link



between strains found on sprouts and in patients.³

The question of whether the farm was the source or simply a distributor also remained. Evidence that in several cases homegrown sprouts were contaminated finally resulted in the identification of fenugreek seeds imported from Egypt as a potential source of the HUS/EHEC outbreak – the largest ever in Germany and, based on the number of reported HUS cases, the largest outbreak to date anywhere in the world. The outbreak officially ended on July 27th, three weeks after no more new cases were reported.

SGS, the global leader in third-party testing, provides services to the whole food supply chain from farm to fork to help assure that your products are fit for the market. For more information, contact your local sales representative.

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¹ Robert Koch Institute

² German Institute of Risk Assessment

³ Informationsdienst Wissenschaft

GMO UPDATE: LABELLING, EU MEMBER STATE RIGHTS & MORE

Several new chapters have recently been written in the ongoing debate about genetically modified/engineered organisms (GMOs) used in food production. These range from a global agreement enabling individual countries to adopt GM food labelling to various European, US and African activities concerning GMO use.

GMOs are defined by global food safety monitoring organization Codex as “genetically engineered/modified organisms, and products thereof, (that) are produced through techniques in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination.”¹ Consumer advocates, the organic industry and others have objected to the use of GMOs on the grounds that the long-term health and environmental effects are unknown.

ON THE LABELLING FRONT

A 20-year debate has been resolved with a decision to allow voluntary labelling indicating the presence of GMOs under the auspices of Codex. Such labelling has been stalled largely because of opposition from the US delegation. In July, the US delegation dropped its objections in return for consensus language stating that “foods derived from modern biotechnology are not necessarily different from other foods simply due to their method of production.”² New guidelines issued by Codex will allow countries to adopt GMO labelling without the risk of a legal challenge from the World Trade Organization, because national measures based on Codex guidance or standards cannot be challenged as a barrier to trade.

IN EUROPE

Recent GMO action began in March when the European Court of Justice’s attorney general issued an opinion that

France’s ban on genetically modified maize developed by Monsanto was illegal. The opinion stated that France “could not suspend the planting of Monsanto’s genetically modified corn without having asked prior permission from the European Commission”.³ France had been one of seven European countries to ban the maize, which previously was one of only two GMO crops approved for planting in the EU. The opinion suggests how the court will rule when the case is heard.

In July, the European Parliament adopted a plan that gives individual EU Member States the right to ban or restrict GMO crop cultivation for a wide variety of reasons, including pesticide resistance, biodiversity preservation, or socioeconomic impacts such as inability to manage contamination risks to agriculture.⁴ The plan – still needing final approval – would be a major change to existing policy under which all EU Member States must follow EU-wide rules except in certain circumstances.

The European Parliament also highlighted the need for the EU Commission and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to update GMO guidelines, which have allowed the approval of a large number of genetically modified animal feed and human food products and ingredients. On August 10, EFSA launched public consultation on its draft guidance for the risk assessment of food and feed derived from GM animals. The public will be able to submit comments until Sept. 30 2011.⁵

IN THE US

A group of senators has asked the US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) to drop plans to consider a commercial company’s request to allow farming of what would be the first genetically modified fish approved for human

consumption.⁶ The US House had expressed its opposition to the plan by passing an amendment to a bill that would eliminate funding for the program. Concerns include loss of fishery jobs in coastal states as well as potential escape of GMO salmon from fish farms that might harm native populations and/or out-compete them for food.

IN AFRICA

On July 1 2011, Kenya joined South Africa, Egypt and Burkina Faso as the fourth country in Africa to allow the production and importation of GM crops. Other African countries are also conducting research on GM crops such as Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Mali, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Ghana.⁷

However, concerns exist over the financial ability of governments to monitor the illegal production and trade of GM crops. Disagreements over the role of GM crops in relieving famine and providing food security for a growing African population are also hindering the implementation of biosafety regulations in many countries.⁸

All around the world GMO products are controversial. With this environment of developing policy and resulting great uncertainty, SGS has developed high technology testing capabilities to detect and track GMO presence in all raw and finished food materials. Our specialists are available to assess and monitor your global food supply chains from field to fork.

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¹ Codex – Marketing of Organically Produced Foods

² U.S. Drops Opposition to Voluntary GM Labeling

³ EU court official: French ban on GMO maize illegal

⁴ GMOs: Parliament backs right to cultivation bans

⁵ EFSA - News

⁶ FDA - opposition to genetically engineered salmon

⁷ Kenya approves law to allow GM crops

⁸ Africa Still Debating GMOs’ Pros And Cons

COMPLIANCE WITH EU FOOD CONTACT REGULATION

Since January 2011, many changes have been implemented in the EU legislation regarding materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods.

EU Food contact materials, including packaging and kitchen ware, need to comply with Framework Regulation (EC) 1935/2004. The regulation requires that food contact materials must not transfer their components into food in quantities that could endanger human health, change food composition in an unacceptable way, or deteriorate the organoleptic characteristics of food. The Regulation also establishes 17 groups of materials (ceramics, plastics, etc) and articles which may be covered by specific measures.

NEW REGULATION ON PLASTIC MATERIALS

Starting May 1st 2011 the new Plastics Implementation Measure (PIM) has come into force. This regulation, (EU) 10/2011, will bring all EU legislation on food contact plastics under one umbrella, replacing, among others, the current Directive 2002/72/EC and the migration testing rules.

The regulation sets:

- List of authorised monomers and additives for use in plastics manufacture
- Restrictions and specifications for authorised substances including specific migration limits
- Rules on non-intentionally added substances i.e. impurities and reaction products
- Rules on compliance especially migration testing, listing simulants, testing conditions
- Overall migration limit
- The concept of functional barrier
- Authorisation for nano-materials before use
- Declaration of compliance and supporting documentation

Implementation of Reg. (EU) 10/2011:

- Until 31 Dec 2012: Overall migration and specific migration from Directive 82/711/EEC
- 1 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec 2015: Overall migration and specific migration from Directive 82/711/EEC or Regulation (EU) 10/2011 (PIM)
- From 1 Jan 2016: Overall migration and specific migration from Regulation (EU) 10/2011 (PIM)

You can read our [SafeGuards N°017/11](#) to find out more about the provisions for specific migrations and overall migrations that shall apply from 31 December 2012.

IMPORTING RULES FOR PLASTIC KITCHENWARE FROM CHINA AND HK

The EU has strengthened importing rules for polyamide (e.g. nylon) and melamine plastic kitchenware from China and Hong Kong. The Regulation (EU) 284/2011 requires the following:

- A declaration stating that products meet certain specific migration limit requirements
- Importers to inform customs on estimated date and time of arrival of shipment at least 2 working days in advance
- Customs will carry out documentary checks on all shipments within 2 working days upon arrival and will perform identification and physical checks, including lab analysis of 10% of shipments
- Enforcement of requirements for specific migration of primary aromatic amines (PAAs) and formaldehyde in certain food contact plastics

Read our [SafeGuards N°144/11](#) to find out more on the declaration of conformity.



IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES

New Italian Decree for Food Contact Stainless Steels (June 2011). In Feb. 2011, Italy published Decree 258 with the inclusion of 'migration of manganese' for food contact stainless steels. The new Decree also includes an updated list of food contact stainless steels and took effect in Feb. 2011. Read more in our [SafeGuards N° 101/11](#).

HOW SGS CAN HELP

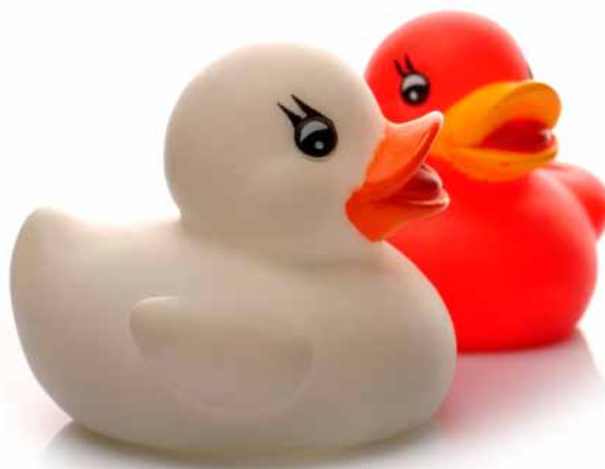
SGS can advise and assist companies on compliance with the EU Food Contact Regulation. Our experts can assist in setting up a Declaration of Compliance (DoC). SGS has also a global network of laboratories with full food contact testing services. Many food contact materials remain subject to national rules of Member States in non-harmonised areas. SGS Standards and Regulations Services (SRS) can provide you with a list of Member States national legislations that you need to comply with for articles in contact with food. Our tables give three levels of information: regulations, standards, labelling. For more information please contact us.

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PLAY IT SAFE WITH PRODUCT DESIGN ANALYSIS

Ensure a product's safety not only protects customers, but also your reputation and profit margins. With a myriad of standards and legislation relating to toys and juvenile products across the globe, it is worth considering a broader approach to product safety - risk assessments.



RISK ASSESSMENT BENEFITS

Many product returns, recalls and other problems that occur once a product has been released onto the market can be prevented through careful risk assessment and product design analysis throughout a product's life cycle. Before spending time and money developing and manufacturing a toy, a risk assessment should be carried out to identify any concerns at every stage from concept to production.

In the EU all toys must undergo a hazard and risk assessment. This is though not applicable in all markets around the world. Product design analysis and risk assessment enables you to develop toys that will meet the most stringent regulations and have the widest market access. Employing design analysis as part of your risk assessment and management process enables you to ensure a toy is safe from the earliest stages.

COMPLEX REQUIREMENTS IN THE EU

Safety regulations in the EU oblige manufacturers to conduct a product hazard and risk assessment and document results before a toy can be placed on the market. This must include legal standards and regulations, but responsible manufacturers and retailers should include voluntary standards, client specific requirements as well as essential safety requirements. One should look beyond minimum standards as a product that meets regulatory standards can still pose a danger to customers.

Consider contracting specialist support for product design analysis services including:

- Feasibility analysis
- Product safety review
- Risk assessment
- Product line review

- Product specific research
- Benchmark/performance testing

Following product design analysis your toys will be better by design, meet consumer expectations and be subject to fewer recalls. This will improve brand reputation and give your company the edge in a competitive marketplace.

A RANGE OF SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE

SGS offers clients three Product Risk Assessment Services at toy testing facilities around the world:

- Quality and Safety Management
- Product Design Analysis
- Manufacturing Control

Stay ahead of the competition and manage safety from concept to final product.

CASE STUDY

SERVICE: [Product risk assessment](#)

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION: [Plastic bath toy in the shape of a boat with a vertical mast.](#)

Manufactured in China and destined for sale in the EU this toy is aimed at children three years or older. SGS was contracted to conduct a product risk assessment before it was placed on the market. Our client was keen to ensure that the product met legal regulations and to identify and rectify any safety issues.

In accordance with the target market the toy was assessed against the current legislation for entry to the EU market, including Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC, EN 71 standards (Safety of Toys), REACH and the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC. In addition to meeting the regulations, our product reviewer also recommended additional standards that would be useful.

The vertical mast of the boat was identified as a Major concern. A review of injury data for children's bath toys identified a number of injuries from children falling in the bath onto a projection on a bath toy.

As this boat has a rigid vertical mast it was thought that this could increase the severity of injury if a child fell onto this toy. It was recommended that either the mast was removed, or made from a soft material to reduce the risk or severity of this hazard.

In addition our experts also review and advise on requirements in terms of labelling for the toy and its packaging as well as requirements related to warnings and instructions for use.

Our product design evaluation looks at the product, its intended audience, and then reviews its potential for damage and injury during both usual and unusual usage. The sooner potential flaws are identified the quicker and more cost effectively corrective actions can be implemented. Consumers, especially children, often find innovative and challenging ways to engage with toys.

A risk assessment on a toy investigates recall and injury data, identifies

foreseeable use and analyses potential hazards. These findings are broken down into four categories:

- Compliance issues
- Critical concerns
- Major concerns
- Minor concerns

All hazards are presented with corrective actions and advice, both with regard to the design, accessories and the manufacturing process.

To find out more about SGS risk assessment services, contact your local SGS representative or email us at productintegrity.cts@sgs.com.

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SAFEGUARDING THE SMALLEST CONSUMERS

Tougher safety requirements for juvenile products are being brought in around the world to help protect our youngest consumers. Manufacturers and retailers must keep abreast of new standards, updates to existing regulations and their implementation schedules.

AN INCREASED NUMBER OF STANDARDS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED

Testing juvenile products is not new, but the number and scope of the standards is on the rise. Children are especially vulnerable so parents and caregivers want to be confident that the goods they purchase are designed and built with youth in mind. As a result countries around the world have implemented strict product testing standard and guidelines.

In recent years children's products have represented a significant proportion of product recalls in the EU and US. To improve this situation, performance standards are constantly being updated and modified as new products are developed and industry better understands the risks they may pose.

In Europe, juvenile products are already subject to around 20 European and more than 10 National standards but another 15 standards should be published in the coming years. The GPSD (General Product Safety Directive) is applicable to the products. The US has more than 20 applicable ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) standards and the CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) applicable to juvenile products is now in place. Other markets including Japan, Australia, New Zealand and China have also developed national standards to better protect consumers.

As a company manufacturing, supplying or retailing to these markets it is vital that you have a full understanding of the relevant standards, and that they are implemented in a timely and consistent fashion. Failure to do so will reduce your access to the market, increase product recalls, reduce profits and damage your reputation with consumers and within the industry.



HOW TO COPE WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEW REGULATIONS

In an increasingly global marketplace the challenge is to ensure regulatory compliance for your products in their target market, wherever they are manufactured. Partnering with an independent testing organisation for your juvenile product testing opens the door to faster turnaround times and the development of economies of scale.

SGS laboratories in China and in the UK have been testing products for many years, but to enable access to high quality testing facilities around world we have significantly extended our capabilities. Our network of juvenile product testing laboratories are complemented by regional technical competence centres which have the broadest range of testing capabilities to smooth your products' path to market.

To ensure the safety and quality of juvenile products manufacturers and retailers can rely on SGS assistance in areas including:

- Consulting and training
- Product development and study of new products
- Factory audits
- Testing
- Inspection
- Pre-shipment testing
- Technical construction file review

We are recognised for our global and local expertise and our experts participate in ANSI, ASTM, ISO and EN working groups for the development of standards. Additionally our expertise in toys, food contact, chemistry, and furniture testing has a trickle down effect and benefits clients in the juvenile products industry as well.

GLOBAL CAPABILITIES FOR JUVENILE PRODUCTS

Worldwide capabilities at our regional technical competence centres:

ASIA - Shanghai, China

- Reference lab for juvenile products testing in China. All relevant standards (EN, ASTM, etc) are tested there
- SGS was the **first CPSIA approved 3rd party lab for full-size and non-full size baby cribs** in China
- Other labs in Asia: Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, India, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam (Vietnam also received certification to both crib standards in July)

EUROPE - Aix en Provence, France and Bradford, UK:

- Reference labs in Europe. All relevant standards for the European Market can be tested there – except bicycle seats (to be subcontracted in Shanghai)
- SGS Aix en Provence is Cofrac accredited for child care articles and toys; Cofrac accreditation for juvenile products – furniture will be achieved by the end of 2011
- SGS Bradford is UKAS accredited for juvenile products testing
- Other labs in Europe: Germany and the Netherlands

AMERICAS - Fairfield, NJ, USA:

- Scope testing: The lab can now provide safety testing for compliance with 20 current ASTM standards covering juvenile products from baby bouncers and booster seats to toddler beds and toy chests
- SGS's new juvenile products testing services have already passed audits for expansion of the lab's ISO 17025 accreditation, a prerequisite for CPSIA-related certification by the US Consumer Products Safety Commission. The Fairfield facility is now certified to all current CPSC standards, including full and non-full sized crib, infant walkers, infant bath seats standards.
- Other labs in the Americas: Brazil



JUVENILE PRODUCTS EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

MEET OUR EXPERTS

You can meet our experts at major upcoming trade shows:

- in the EU - Kind+Jugend, Cologne, Germany, 15-18 Sept. 2011, Hall 11.1, Stand G-052
- in the US - ABC Kids Expo, Louisville, KY 23-26 Sept. 2011

Contact your local SGS representative for details of local events, conferences and lab tours.

REGULATORY BULLETINS

Keep up-to-date with changes in regulations through the SGS Safeguards, the regulatory bulletins written by our experts. Recent Safeguards about Juvenile Products include:

[Brazil Compulsory Certification for Infant Cradles](#)

[China bans BPA in Infant Feeding Bottles](#)

[New EU Regulation for BPA in Polycarbonate Baby Feeding Bottles](#)

To find out more about SGS services, contact our sales team:

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CHILDRENSWEAR - RESPONSIBLE RETAILING WOULD I DRESS MY CHILD IN THIS?

Interested lobby groups such as the Mothers' Union and Mumsonline have been putting pressure on the UK Government for some time to take action over what they see as unsuitable clothing for children. Inappropriate fashion being a main thrust but also the marketing of children's products using veiled and overt sexual references to get parents to buy product which is either unsuitable in style or has unsuitable advertising and logos emblazoned on it.

RETAILERS INITIATIVE WITH UK GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The UK Government through Sarah Teather: Minister of State for Children & Families, has acted and is supporting the [British Retail Consortium \(BRC\) Guidelines](#) published recently which attempt to end the "Sexualisation of Children" in retailing and marketing.

"Responsible BRC members have long taken steps to ensure the products they offer meet their customers' expectations of quality, price, style and taste. As a result there is a strong body of knowledge within the BRC on managing the inevitable reputation risks thrown up in a fast moving commercial environment" said Stephen Robertson, Director General of BRC.

Mr Robertson then goes on to say that the BRC invites all childrenswear retailers to join and sign up to deliver the best childrenswear in the world and offer a wider choice of practical, fun and appropriate clothing to suit everyone's budget. So far UK retailers: Argos, Debenhams, George, John Lewis Partnership, Marks & Spencer, Next, Peacocks, Pumpkin Patch, Sainsbury, Tesco and TK Maxx have given support to the Guidelines.

GUIDELINES TO COVER ALL TYPES OF PRODUCTS

The Guidelines try to cover everything from footwear to outerwear with special emphasis on underwear and swimwear. The guidelines also take account of

different end use requirements such as School, play, swim and party wear.

Marketing of clothing for the under 12s is a particular concern whether this is in the form of still photography or the moving image and the guidelines make recommendations about what is reasonable and what is not.

For more information and support with placing your clothing products in a specific market visit the [SGS Softlines webpage](#).

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UPSTREAM CHEMICAL CONTROL FOR THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about the potentially harmful impact of chemicals that are used in apparel and footwear. In view of concerns about environmental and public exposures to restricted substances, many national and international regulations such as REACH and CPSIA have been issued to restrict or prohibit such chemicals and many restricted substances lists are used throughout the industry.



THE CHALLENGES

Harmful chemicals can pose a grave threat to both people and the environment. The presence of hazardous substances might result in a recall case that would be damaging to a company's brand image and reputation. A recent Greenpeace International publication *Dirty Laundry 2: Hung Out to Dry* highlighted the chemical Nonylphenol ethoxylate (NPE) and how it was shown to be released into the environment from apparel and footwear. This is an example that shows that the global impact to the environment is not only at the point of production, but also at the point of sale.

There are many other chemicals that fall into the group of chemicals that are potentially harmful to the environment and public exposure. This has created new challenges for apparel and footwear companies in implementing a unified and integrated approach to the requirements

of worldwide consumer product regulations, recognized industrial standards, chemical specifications and the release of hazardous chemicals throughout the entire supply chain.

THE CONTROL

Numerous chemicals used during production may carry a very high risk to consumer's health and to the environment. Therefore, risk control and management throughout the supply chain is important in order to diminish the risk that the final product may have on public health and environmental safety. A strict quality assurance system will be needed to control products from the source to the final product. Critical elements of such a system include factory system reviews, verification of documentation and operation control, and assessment of raw material suppliers. Chemical and raw material evaluation and management

including chemical substances and their components is vital to a strict quality assurance system. Evaluation mechanisms for new components and suppliers should be established to ensure that no restricted chemical substances that may pose a threat on the quality of the finished products will enter the production line.

THE NEXT STEP

To differentiate your products and competitiveness, to build an exclusive brand image, to promote your company's reputation and to sharpen your competitive edge, you can partner with SGS to discuss and develop your action plans.

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LiPo CELLS IN TOYS: WHAT DANGERS ARE LURKING IN THE NURSERY?

Due to their high power density and superiority over conventional accumulator technology, Lithium Polymer (LiPo) rechargeable batteries are not only favoured in a variety of applications, such as power tools, cellular phones and remote controls, but are also now finding their way into the nurseries of children, where a long lifespan coupled with light weight and small size is always in demand.



GROWING USE FOR LiPo BATTERIES

Whether it is for model cars, toy helicopters, short-range radios or kid's ride-on toys, a combination of quick recharging, low weight and long running times make kid's and parent's eyes light up and enhances the fun factor of such products. The increasing mass production of the batteries in Asia is causing their prices to fall and so making them a most attractive technology for economical toys.

A "Lithium Polymer" battery principally consists of a negative electrode, electrolyte and positive electrode as layered membranes. The outer skin of the battery is very thin and susceptible to physical puncture by sharp or pointed objects. In addition, the energy density is very high. These attributes give rise to potential dangers from the contents of the battery. It can lead to a chemical

burn, skin and eye irritation as well as the risk of poisoning if swallowed. Also there are electrical risks and the dangers of explosion or a flash-fire and consequent burns.

HOW TO MINIMISE THE DANGER FOR CHILDREN

Children do not show the same degree of caution in their behavior as adults. If an easily accessible battery awakens the interest of a child, it can quickly lead to physical damage to the **battery and accumulator**. Potential leakage of the battery's contents can then endanger the child's health.

For this reason, a material safety data sheet for the battery should accompany every product, specifying the actual material it contains. In an emergency, with irritation or poisoning, for example, the necessary information can be quickly obtained and suitable steps taken. If the manufacturer or supplier does not provide a safety data sheet, the information should be included in the user instructions, accompanied by details of treatment in case of contact with the contents – e.g. providing a number for the poison control hotline.

Since manufacturers and dealers are typically subject to intense competition and its resultant cost pressures, there is often less time and money invested in the product's development and its components than it actually warrants. Chargers and batteries are mostly bought-in parts from a variety of suppliers, which were either purpose-built or must be adapted. These components are often not conceived to work in combination, but they are nevertheless employed with the toy.

FURTHER PROTECTION MEASURES

Lithium Polymer batteries are electrically sensitive to overloading, short-circuiting, excessive current and to long-term storage in a fully uncharged condition. In many instances, the batteries become damaged or are completely destroyed. The safety data sheet should provide detailed information on what should be done if an explosion occurs, the battery catches fire or it leaks gases and electrolyte.

Products with LiPo batteries may always present a risk to children even when used as intended. Retailers can find out whether test results by the relevant consumer protection agencies exist for the actual product and they should check to ensure the product has a seal of approval and certification by an independent testing company, such as **SGS Consumer Testing Services**, which confirms the safety of the product.

Please feel free to contact us for more information and support with placing safe battery-powered children's products on any market around the globe.

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PRODUCT SAFETY: OSHA REJECTS THE SDoC ROUTE TO DECLARE COMPLIANCE

In late 2008, the European Union suggested that the United States adopt its product safety system for electrical equipment which is based on a "Supplier's Declaration of Conformity" (SDoC), where the manufacturers themselves are responsible for product testing and safety marking, and the government is required to provide enforcement.

PRODUCT SAFETY IN THE USA

Within the United States, product safety for electrical equipment is not mandated by the federal government. Only devices utilized in the workplace fall under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The environment in the United States is very different to that of the European Union. The threat of litigation and bad publicity effectively forces the free market to take a serious stance on product safety. It is market-driven demand that compels manufacturers to comply with applicable product safety requirements, usually as defined through UL standards. The manufacturers use accredited third-party agencies to evaluate their products for safety, allowing them to use proprietary certification marks making it clear to distributors, retailers and customers that the product has undergone a thorough evaluation and continues to be monitored for safety according to the listing agencies' rigorous programs.

A product which has been "listed" (the U.S.A. term for "certified" regarding safety) requires that the manufacturer's quality system is adequate, manufacturing is consistent through regular factory inspections, and any production line testing which may be required is regularly performed.

Electrical products which are used in the workplace go through the same process, but in this case it is not voluntary. OSHA, the body that accredits Nationally-Recognized Testing Laboratories (NRTLs) in the USA, requires that all workplace electrical products be listed. The accreditation of a third-party test lab for the NRTL program is difficult. Everything



about the way the third-party laboratory does business is scrutinized and audited regularly. It is for this reason that OSHA-accredited NRTLs are the preferred choice for demonstrating the safety compliance of almost any electrical device in the U.S.A.

MANUFACTURER'S DECLARATION FOR OSHA?

After two requests for information (RFI's) and two years of review, OSHA rejected the EU proposal of adopting the SDoC system – and there are good reasons for it.

First, contrary to Europe, a third-party NRTL safety listing in the United States is just as valid in New York as it is in Arizona. Some states may have specific requirements for certain categories of equipment, but a UL, ETL, TUV or SGS NRTL listing is the same from coast to coast.

Second, the perception in the industry is that a manufacturer's declaration of safety compliance is of little value. Retailers and distributors will not accept a manufacturer's word that their product is safe, and they do not have the expertise to evaluate technical files for every electronic product they sell.

Third, the enforcement of such a program would require additional OSHA personnel to be trained, outfitted and deployed, which is not something the U.S.A. is currently willing to consider. Aside from that, the issue of government surveillance after the product is already selling on store shelves does not fit with the mentioned liability concerns.

In summary, expanding OSHA's role to create and enforce a program that will not be held in great value by a majority of the market is probably not the best use of taxpayer funds at this time. The system of using NRTLs to provide initial certification and ensure continued compliance of electronic products appears to provide the demanding U.S.A. market with what it needs, without additional government intervention.

Please feel free to contact us for more information on [SGS Product Safety services](#) for the North American market.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF USING QUALIFIED AIRBAGS

Airbags were once recognized as the sign of high-end cars, but now they are increasingly being used in intermediate-grade cars and even in the economical ones. Why are they so popular today? It is mainly because it deals with people's desire to drive a safe vehicle? Homologation criteria for passive safety have also increased around the world. Occupants protection against lateral and frontal collision is part of the legal requirements.

AIRBAG FUNCTIONING AND TYPES

An airbag is a vehicle safety device. Modern vehicles may contain multiple airbags on various sides and even on the passenger seating, and sensors may deploy one or more airbags in an impact zone at variable rates based on the type and severity of the impact. The airbag is designed to only inflate in mild to severe frontal crashes. Airbags are normally designed with the intention of supplementing the protection of an occupant who is correctly restrained with a seat belt. Most designs are inflated through pyrotechnic means and can only be operated once.

The types of airbags are driver airbag (DAB), passenger airbag (PAB), knee airbag (KAB), seat airbag (SAB), curtain airbag (CAB), etc. Usually, airbag assembly consists of a flexible cover, an air bag, an inflator and a rigid base. In addition, an airbag control unit (ACU) monitors a number of related sensors within the vehicle. When the vehicle is in a collision, the airbag control unit will trigger the ignition of a gas generator propellant to rapidly inflate a nylon fabric bag. As the vehicle occupant collides with and squeezes the bag, the gas escapes in a controlled manner through small vent holes.

VARIOUS AIRBAG TESTING NEEDED

Airbags should only deploy in critical conditions and should be stable in normal situations. Usually, during R&D the airbags need to withstand a series of environment tests. The complete environment test procedure is composed of individual tests which simulate automobile related influences. Simulating

the total service life may require more severe test levels than those seen in real world conditions to accelerate ageing and degradation processes. It is very important to certify the capacity of the airbag during the R&D stage.

All of the test procedures are similar but for different Design, Verification, plan & Report (DVP&R) from OEMs, the details can be changed. With tests being performed gradually, the airbags must withstand the various shocks and present no visible damage or anomaly during and after the tests. After the ageing process airbag assemblies must be deployed in order to certificate their capacities.

HOW THE TESTING PROCEDURE OCCURS

The airbag deployment process occurs by sending a specific current to ignite at a specified pulse width. Next, the ignition triggers the inflator which fills the air bag. High-speed cameras record the procedure to offer test engineers data on the opening and filling times and to confirm the direction of the flying particles.

The airbag assembly should be set in a vehicle condition. For example, a DAB should be inserted in a steering wheel, PAB and KAB in instrument panels, SAB on seat system or frames and CAB in the white body. A flying particles collector will be placed on the seating reference point. The collector simulates the position of an occupant's head and body. After testing, the test engineer checks whether the flying particles go into the collector or not and record the area number. The particles should be weighed and pictured.

The airbag assembly is taken apart after deployment to check the deployment door, the inflator and the air bag itself. All of the data collected from the test is provided to R&D staff who will verify whether the airbag meets set requirements.

Based on various DVP&R and standard testing requirements, including ISO-12097-2 (Road Vehicle-Airbag Component Testing), AKLV-03, AKLV-16 USCAR-24 for OEM airbag modules and also as per the requirements for ECE-R114 regard to replacement airbag modules SGS China has invested in state-of-the art equipment for its airbag testing lab. This includes a drop tester, mechanical shock, dust chamber, simultaneous vibration-temperature tester, humidity-environment chamber, salt spray chamber, accelerate light chamber, thermal shock chamber, etc.

All these tests concentrate on environmental influences such as ageing, sunshine, dust, etc .

From the beginning of 2011, hundreds of airbag certification tests based on various DVP&R of OEMs and above mentioned test requirements have been performed in the SGS China testing lab. The test data acquired helps clients to identify any potential failures and remedy the issues before going into serial production.

Contact us to learn more about our airbag testing capabilities.

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SGS IN THE NEWS

AUTOMOTIVE

SGS AUTO PART LABORATORY OPENED IN CHANGCHUN ECONOMIC ZONE

On 26 May 2011, SGS - CSTC, opened its Automotive Part Lab (APL) - Changchun in Productivity Boosting Centre, Changchun Economic and Technological Development Zone (ETDZ).

SGS APL (Changchun) is located in the Productivity Boosting Centre, occupies a vast space of 2,500sqm with the total

investment of 10 million RMB. The lab provides services including physical, aging, environmental simulation, reliability and endurance testing for whole car, exterior and exterior parts, auto electrical and electronic components, auto chassis, material and coating etc. The state-of-the-art equipment includes a 78-cube-metre drive-in chamber, 8-ton vibration table with 8-cube-metre environment chamber

and sunshine simulation, multi-functional material tester (large span), pneumatic testing system, salt spray, ozone tester, water resistant, dust resistant tester and so on. Based in Changchun, the lab will serve the auto and components enterprises with its professional testing in north-east China.

For more info contact:
cts-auto.global@sgs.com

SGS CHINA HOLDS AUTO TESTING SEMINAR

On 29 July 2011, SGS China Auto held an Automotive Interior & Exterior Components Testing Seminar at JAC Technology Centre, Hefei, Anhui Province.

The seminar attracted many attendees from JAC Passenger Vehicle Centre and the interior and exterior suppliers of JAC. The seminar covered various topics like interior and exterior assembly tests, material tests, VOC tests for auto and auto components etc. The aim of

the seminar was to offer a platform to automotive professionals to come together and discuss current trends and challenges faced in the industry.

For more info contact:
cts-auto.global@sgs.com

FOOD

SGS SIGNS GLOBAL AGREEMENT WITH BEST AQUACULTURE PRACTICES

In June 2011 SGS announced that the company had signed an agreement with Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP). As an independent contractor (SGS) will perform facility inspections and certification audits for aquaculture farms, hatcheries, processing plants and feed mills that apply for BAP certification.

The BAP standards address environmental and social responsibility, animal welfare, food safety and traceability in a voluntary certification

program for aquaculture facilities. Successful participants in the BAP program are awarded with the "Best Aquaculture Practices Certification" mark for use on packaging of seafood products, demonstrating to consumers a participant's commitment to providing safe and sustainably sourced seafood. Last year the BAP certification program was successfully benchmarked against the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) food safety requirements, therefore seafood processing plants can now achieve both BAP certification and GFSI compliance through a single audit process. "This achievement represents a very important step for



SGS in order to meet the food safety and sustainability needs of aquaculture industry and retailers globally through BAP certification" states Rob Parrish, Vice President Global Food at SGS.

For more info contact:
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SGS IN THE NEWS

FOOD

JOURNALISTS WANT MORE INFORMATION ON FOOD PROCESSING

What's cooking in a McDonald's kitchen and how does a gourmet chef maintain the quality of his meals? Several journalists from consumer and specialist trade publications took the chance to get an answer to these questions during a workshop offered by SGS Institut Fresenius.

The second event of this kind took place in Hamburg/Germany and was focused on the issue "Quality in Gastronomy". Dr. Christian Hummert, Dirk Lindemann and Dr. Roy Hörner informed the participants about topics such as: What quality standards are appropriate for certain price segments or different kinds of gastronomy? How has the quality level been developed over the past ten years? Where do consumers have to

pay attention? To cover all important aspects from fast food to fast casual and fine dining the journalists also visited restaurants like Vapiano and Tafelhaus, run by TV chef Christian Rach. The positive feedback by the journalists showed the need for projects like this. The project was initiated by Anke Teichgräber, Product and Marketing Manager Quality Seal. For more info contact: anke.teichgraeber@sgs.com

SGS CHINA OPENS NEW FOOD LAB IN BEIJING

On 17 May 2011, SGS in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences (CAAMS) opened a new food testing laboratory in Beijing, China.

The CAAMS is a national innovation-oriented enterprise specialising in research and development for food processing and engineering and is widely recognized by the food and agricultural industry in China. This partnership further strengthens SGS's relationship with the Chinese government to improve the level of food safety in China and is

SGS's 11th professional food laboratory in the country. The addition of this new food laboratory to the SGS network will significantly enhance both the customer service capabilities and efficiency for food industry clients in surrounding areas of Beijing.

For more info, please contact: michael.zhu@sgs.com

SGS PORTUGAL INVESTS IN STATE-OF-THE-ART FOOD TESTING EQUIPMENT



SGS continues to invest in developing world class testing capabilities around the globe. In our Portuguese food testing laboratory SGS has invested in Kitty IV, a new piece of equipment that automates the plating process for microbiological food testing.

This new piece of equipment is capable of processing up to 60 samples per hour, automatically homogenizing the samples, preparing the culture medium, coding and sorting the samples. Upgrading

from a manual to an automated process has enabled the laboratory to triple the volume of its sample handling capacity. For SGS clients this translates to improvements in quality of service, faster turnaround times and more accurate results. Our network of laboratories and capabilities are structured to optimise cross-lab synergies, to create specialised competence centres, to share best practices and to develop new testing methods for client and network benefit

For more info, please contact: ana.sa@sgs.com

SGS IN THE NEWS

SOFTLINES

SGS EXHIBITS AT EXPO RIVA SCHUH INDIA

Expo Riva Schuh India is a new exhibition event that provides a platform for the entire footwear industry to come together. It is the first trade show in India entirely dedicated to footwear and leatherwear.

The fair was organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on July 28-30. The fair had different pavilions for national and international exhibitors with representations from around 200 countries. SGS presented its leather, PPE and footwear testing capabilities. About 2,000 visitors attended the fair during the three day event. For more info on [SGS Softlines Services](#), contact: karen.kyllo@sgs.com



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The 21st century brings Asia to the forefront. The worldwide currency fluctuations, the potentially huge market, the production of low labor costs all contribute to the shift of the textile and clothing industry to this region. Staying in the heart of Asia, we see the opportunity and challenge to produce the right quality of products in order to meet the mandatory requirement set by different new markets.

The seminar "The Challenges and Opportunities of Fashion and Textile Industry in the 21st Century" was jointly hosted by SGS Hong Kong Ltd and the Vocational Training Council of Hong Kong, on May 27 2011 in Hong Kong. The seminar was held to help the textile and fashion industry adapt to the changing market conditions, seize opportunities and face new challenges ahead. The global apparel supply chain network and procurement strategy together with an overview of the global sourcing environment also was covered.

Experts in the area were invited to speak in the seminar and shared with the audience information on key issues about Asian regulatory updates and global apparel supply chain network and procurement strategy. Participants including industry leaders from retailers, suppliers, buyers, and merchandisers gave positive feedback about the seminars. We are looking forward for future collaborations with our affiliates in the fashion and textile industry that bring new and innovative insights. For more info on [SGS Softlines Services](#), contact: karen.kyllo@sgs.com

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

SGS AND ENVIRON LAUNCHED AN EXCLUSIVE WEBINAR ON RoHS 2

SGS and Eviron, a leading international environmental consultancy, held a webinar entitled "RoHS2 challenges and solutions" on 28 June 2011, explaining the impact of the new RoHS2 scope, which applies to all products that are dependent on electrical power to fulfil at least one intended function.

The recast EU RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU (known as RoHS2) became EU law after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Community (OJEU) in July 2011. RoHS2 will take effect 18 months later. The webinar highlighted the new legal obligations for importers and distributors that apply immediately as soon as the new Member State Directive takes effect. The webinar also explained the impact of the RoHS2 CE Marking requirements

for the Manufacturers, where technical documentation must include test reports wherever applicable. Also new RoHS2 product scopes have been discussed.

For more info on proposed solutions for these challenges please contact: ee.global@sgs.com.

You can also view a recording of the [RoHS 2 webinar](#).

SGS IN THE NEWS

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS AT SGS LABS IN THE US

As part of its continuing commitment to provide customers with the best service and resources, SGS has made major improvements to its Electrical, Electronics and Wireless facilities in the US.

The new SGS E&E safety lab in Atlanta is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment that ensures accurate testing with the newest techniques. Capabilities provide testing solutions for all E&E markets including medical devices, and entertainment electronics, office equipment, hazardous location equipment, household appliances, lighting products and power cords.

The San Diego Wireless laboratory just completed a massive expansion including the addition of GSM and

WCDMA technologies making SGS the first wireless lab to provide certification test coverage for all major cellular technologies under one roof including CDMA, EVDO, GSM, GPRS, WCDMA and LTE. With PTCRB and GCF certification testing, SGS has pushed their testing services portfolio past the competition. These services also include CDMA/EVDO test programs for CCF Certification, CTIA Certification, Carrier Safe For Network, CDG and Stage 1. For more info contact: jennifer.dwyer@sgs.com

SGS SOLAR TESTHOUSE OFFERS SALT SPRAY TESTING & CERTIFICATION OF MODULES

SGS Solar Testhouse now provides Salt Spray Testing services to solar manufacturers in order to confirm quality conformance to international standards, using corrosion acceleration in an artificial atmosphere.

In order to verify that solar panels will withstand years of exposure in salt-rich and humid atmospheres, SGS can perform salt spray tests in an artificial atmosphere that accelerate the natural

corrosive effects typical in coastal regions or at sea. In this way, we can simulate many years of equipment's operational exposure to harsh conditions in a matter of weeks.

SGS Salt spray testing ensures conformance with international standards such as IEC 61701:1995 / DIN EN 61701:2000-8, 60068-2-52 2. Ed. 1996-01 and provides various levels of severity, corresponding to progressively longer durations of test. Conformance is an especially important indicator of

quality and the SGS Solar Testhouse certified **aleo solar AG**, whose S_18 solar modules passed stringent salt spray testing on April 8, 2011. The test involved repeated cycles of spraying with a 5% saline solution at ambient temperatures of between 15°C and 35°C for two hours, followed by 22 hours at 40°C with a relative humidity of 93%.

For more info on **SGS Salt Spray tests for solar modules** contact: joern.brembach@sgs.com

SGS SOLAR TESTHOUSE GAINS CGC APPROVAL FOR CHINESE GOLDEN SUN MARK

SGS Solar Testhouse in Germany has signed an agreement with the China General Certification Center (CGC). on 30 June 2011, allowing SGS to provide its customers with the Chinese CGC mark called Golden Sun Mark Certificate.

"This agreement is an important milestone that will strengthen SGS' certification service portfolio. We can now provide a comfortable one-stop certification service to our customers

and thus simplify their global expansion," explains Jörn Brembach, Business Manager Photovoltaics.

Through the status "Golden Sun Certification Approved Laboratory", solar modules tested by our Solar Testhouse can be accredited by CGC via the Golden Sun Mark Certificate. Thus, solar manufacturers can gain access to the Chinese market through their usual, IEC related certification process.

Founded in 2003, the **CGC** is currently China's leading certifier in photovoltaic

products testing and certification. It operates under the licensed authorization of the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA). Until now, the CGC established and executed China's increasingly influential, national certification scheme for photovoltaic projects - the Golden Sun certification.

For more info on **SGS Solar Testing Services** contact: joern.brembach@sgs.com

SGS IN THE NEWS

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

SGS SOLAR TESTHOUSE RECEIVED ACCREDITATION IN THE CB PROGRAMME

Exactly one year after receiving national accreditation according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 from Germany's National Accreditation Body (DAkkS), the SGS Solar Testhouse achieved the international accreditation of the IECCE CB program.

"With accreditation of our testing laboratory we can significantly shorten market-launch times for our customers' solar panels and thus simplify their global expansion," explains Jörn Brembach, Manager of the [SGS Solar Test House](#).

As a national certified body (NCB) and one of the five German Certification Body testing laboratories (CBTL), SGS can now issue internationally recognized CB testing certificates and CB testing

reports for solar panel manufacturers. With a request for an additional national certification, a manufacturer that is already approved to IEC standards only needs to submit the CB testing certificate and the CB testing report together with a supplementary sheet on the national variations and is thereby given priority.

For more info contact: joern.brembach@sgs.com

SGS SOLAR SERVICES EXHIBITED AT INTERSOLAR 2011

The world's largest exhibition for the solar industry, Intersolar Europe, drew around 77,000 visitors and 2,280 exhibitors to Munich, Germany, between 8-10 June 2011. This year, the exhibition centred on the energy revolution, showcasing technological solutions for a solar-powered future.

The 2,280 exhibitors presented their technologies and services in the fields of "Photovoltaics", "PV Production Technology" and "Solar Thermal Technology" across an exhibition space spanning 168,000 square meters that included 15 exhibition halls and an outdoor exhibition area. The world's largest exhibition for the solar industry once again celebrated significant growth in all exhibition areas.

SGS Solar Services presented at its booth the full capabilities of the SGS

network in the field of solar technologies, including its newly awarded Certification Body (CB) accreditation. The high number of visitors at the SGS booth at Intersolar 2011 highlights the market's interest in fast, high quality qualification solutions for solar technologies.

SGS Solar Services team is looking forward to hosting you at its booth at the PVSEC Exhibiton, in Hamburg, Gemany at the beginning of September. For more info on [SGS Solar Testing Services](#) contact: joern.brembach@sgs.com

A SNEAK PREVIEW AT THE NEWS ITEMS IN THE NEXT MEDICAL DEVICES NEWSLETTER

The great reader response received by the first issue of the newly-created SGS Medical Devices (MD) newsletter in May 2011, has further motivated our experts in the field of Medical Devices to bring out an even more informative second issue. The next MD newsletter is due to come out towards the end of September but we are now giving you a quick update of the topics it will cover.

SGS medical devices experts from global team have decided to share with you their knowledge and experience on new regulations and technologies to help companies gain or maintain a competitive advantage on their target markets.

The SGS Medical Devices Newsletter is being sent out to those interested in the medical devices industry whenever major technological or regulatory developments occur, offering access to objective information to help companies take sound business decisions.

The next issue of the MD newsletter will include:

- An article on how the Performance of Notified Bodies can be improved
- the IEC 60601 -1-11 standard
- An update on the Medical Devices Directive recast
- New regulations in Saudi Arabia
- An update on the relevant standards and guidelines
- A wide range of learning opportunities offered by the SGS network

Subscribe to the [SGS Medical Devices Newsletter](#) or find more info on [SGS Services for Medical Devices](#).

SGS IN THE NEWS

HARDGOODS, TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

SGS UNVEILS NEW JUVENILE PRODUCTS LAB IN AIX EN PROVENCE, FRANCE

In June 2011, SGS has opened a new large-scale juvenile products testing laboratory in Aix en Provence, France.

The new facility will provide a wide spectrum of juvenile products testing services to prepare manufacturers, retailers and importers to meet quality standards in the EU market. SGS can test high chairs, beds, cradles, playpens and changing tables according to respectively EN 14988, EN 716, EN

1130, EN 12227, EN 12221, EN 71-2 & -3 (stability, mechanical /physical strength, small parts, flammability, chemicals testing, labeling checking, etc).

SGS France has long achieved COFRAC accreditation for toys and food contact materials as well as for childcare articles including baby bottles, soothers and feeding equipment. SGS proven expertise and experience in testing toys, furniture, articles and materials in contact with food, will actually give you a competitive advantage in the

development of your juvenile products for the EU market.

In Europe, another 15 standards covering juvenile products should be published in the coming years. Our French experts stay on top of these changes to ensure our clients are aware of upcoming changes and consider them as early as possible in their development process. Our global network of first class technical experts can support you for all your juvenile products needs in the US, Brazil, China, etc. For more info contact: aude.caplet@sgs.com

NEW TOYS TESTING LAB IN INDONESIA

With the coming into force of the mandatory toys safety standard (SNI) in Indonesia in 2012 and market demand for safe toys in Europe and America, SGS Indonesia has opened a new toy testing lab for toys up to 14+ years covering both soft and plastic toys.

Our testing service covers the following standards and regulations:

- EN 71

- ASTM F963
- AS/NZS ISO 8124
- CPSC 16 CFR
- SNI ISO 8124
- Phthalates REACH Annex XVII
- Azo Dyes REACH Annex XVII
- Cadmium REACH Annex XVII

And the following tests:

- Physical, mechanical & chemical test
- Flammability test

- Washability test
- Lead content test
- Cadmium content test
- Phthalates content test

Our lab is strategically located in Jakarta near the most important toy manufacturing region in the country. The new laboratory complements SGS's global network of toys laboratories located in Europe, Asia and Americas. For more info contact: consumertesting.indonesia@sgs.com

NEW FURNITURE CAPABILITIES IN SERBIA

Conscious of increased demand for furniture testing, SGS opened a new furniture laboratory in Serbia (Beograd) in June 2011.



SGS Serbia has achieved accreditation for the following tests covering seating furniture, storage furniture as well as stools and tables for pre-school and school institutions:

- Stability
- Durability
- Surface resistibility
- Quality of materials
- Correctness of workmanship

The new laboratory complements SGS's global network of furniture laboratories located in Europe, Asia and Americas. SGS offers a comprehensive range of testing services globally including flammability, chemical and fabric tests and offers value-added services including certification (GS Mark, CARB, etc), audit and inspection services.

For further information please email: sgs.beograd@sgs.com and visit www.sgs.com/furniture.

SGS EVENTS SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2011

For more events, please check the [online events calendar](#).

EVENT	COUNTRY	LOCATION	DATES	INDUSTRY	TRADE SHOW / CONFERENCE	BOOTH NO. IF ANY	CONTACT PERSON
Failure Damage Analysis Seminar	China	Shanghai	September 2	Automotive	Conference	N/A	george.ding@sgs.com
EcoGen 2011	Australia	Brisbane	Sept. 4 - Sept. 7	Clean Energy Industry	Conference	N/A	amy.kauler@sgs.com
PVSEC Hamburg	Germany	Hamburg (Trade Center)	Sept. 5 - Sept. 9	Electrical & Electronics (E&E)	Trade Show / Conference	B6 / B35	ines.alte@sgs.com
Environmental Compliance Seminar for the Electronics Industry	UK	London	September 7	Electrical & Electronics (E&E)	Seminar	N/A	ian.allard@sgs.com
2011 Q-LAB Auto & Parts Seminar	China	Shanghai	September 15	Automotive	Conference	N/A	jules.wang@sgs.com
Séminaire agro-alimentaire	France	Rouen	September 15	Food	Conference	N/A	karine.debergue@sgs.com
Kind + Jugend 2011	Germany	Cologne (Exhibition Center)	Sept. 15 - Sept. 18	Toys & Juvenile Products	Trade Show	Hall 11.1 / Booth G-052	stephanie.pionchon@sgs.com
2 nd China Auto Safety System Technology & Applications Summit	China	Tianjin	Sept. 21 - Sept. 22	Automotive	Conference	N/A	george.ding@sgs.com jules.wang@sgs.com jason-wf.lu@sgs.com
eCarTec Munich	Germany	Munich (Fair & Trade Centre)	Oct. 18 - Oct. 20	Electrical & Electronics (E&E)	Trade Show / Conference	Hall A5 / Booth 616	ines.alte@sgs.com
2 nd Annual China Commercial Vehicle Summit	China	Weihai	Oct. 27 - Oct. 28	Automotive	Conference	N/A	davis.li@sgs.com george.ding@sgs.com jason.lu@sgs.com
Car Testing & Electronic China 2011	China	Shanghai	Nov. 3 - Nov. 4	Automotive	Trade Show / Conference	N/A	tony.he@sgs.com
EV Battery Forum	China	Shanghai	Nov. 7 - Nov. 10	Automotive	Conference	N/A	george.ding@sgs.com jason-wf.lu@sgs.com
Functional Safety Training	India	Bangalore	Nov. 14 - Nov. 18	Automotive	Training	N/A	swati.tyagi@sgs.com

SAFEGUARDS

STAY ON TOP OF ALL REGULATORY CHANGES WITHIN YOUR INDUSTRY! 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. Find below a selection of SafeGuards titles from the past weeks.

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CONSUMER PRODUCTS

- Minimum Wages Going Up Across China in 2011 - [read the bulletin](#)
- Connecticut Ban of BPA in Receipt Paper - [read the bulletin](#)
- US CPSC Approves 100 ppm Lead Content Limit in Children's Products - [read the bulletin](#)

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

- ROHS II Published in the Official Journal of the European Union - [read the bulletin](#)
- Indian Regulation on Electric and Electronic Equipment - [read the bulletin](#)

FOOD

- Japan Strictly Monitors Furazolidone Contamination in Shrimp Products - [read the bulletin](#)
- New EU Food Labelling Rules? - [read the bulletin](#)

HARDGOODS, TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

- Brazil Compulsory Certification for Infant Cradles - [read the bulletin](#)
- US New Proposed Legislation Amending the CPSIA - [read the bulletin](#)
- First Toy Standard EN 71-1:2011 harmonized under 2009/48/EC - [read the bulletin](#)
- CARB Updates: extension of sell through dates for certain composite wood products - [read the bulletin](#)

SOFTLINES

- New US Tariff Rules on Footwear May Become Effective in September - [read the bulletin](#)
- FTC Seeks Public Comments on Care Label Instructions - [read the bulletin](#)



PRODUCT RECALLS

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. SGS Product Recalls is now offered for no charge, and is included twice per month in the SGS SafeGuards publication.

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