

# SAFEGUARDS

## CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS, TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

NO. 059/15 APRIL 2015

## EU ROHS COMPLIANCE - STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

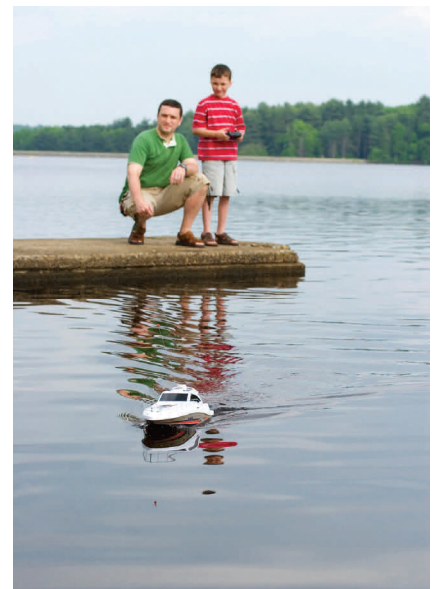
The EU RoHS directive has been in place since 2006, however a recent study by the UK National Measurement Office (NMO), the “Higher Priced Toys Purchasing Project” concluded that 40% of the purchases failed for either EU RoHS and / or the EU Battery Directive requirements.

### BACKGROUND:

The NMO identified 5 different toys categories: Educational, Sports and Outdoors, Musical, Ages Under 3 Years, Ages Over 3 Years. Three price categories were identified: £30.00 – £49.99, £45.00 – £59.99 and greater than £60.00 were identified. The actual purchase price of the items ranged from a low of £30.00 to a high of £104.90. The risk analysis considered availability on the market and the popularity of retailers. It included both brick and mortar retailers as well as internet sales channels to select product manufacturers. A total of 15 products were purchased in June of 2014 by NMO enforcement personnel and submitted for laboratory analysis.

### RESULTS:

- One Educational Toy purchased from a retailer for £30.00 failed for RoHS content and RoHS marking.
- One Educational Toy purchased from a retailer for £99.99 failed for RoHS marking and the Battery Directive.
- One Sports and Outdoor Toy purchased from a retailer for £36.98 failed for RoHS content, RoHS marking and Battery Directive.
- One 0 to 3 Year Toy purchased from a importer/distributor for £35.00 failed for the Battery Directive.
- One 0 to 3 Year Toy purchased from a importer/distributor for £59.99 failed for the Battery Directive.
- One 3 + Year Toy purchased from a £104.90 from a retailer failed for RoHS content and the Battery Directive.
- 3 of the 6 items that failed were “ride on” type toys.



Reference: [Higher Priced Toys 2014 RoHS Report](#)

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- Testing results:
  - a. Total Items Tested 15
  - b. Total Items Passed 9
  - c. Total Items Failed 6
  - d. % Items Failed 40
- e. Results will be shared with the Administrative Co-Operation Group (ADCO) to assess whether Toys are an EU wide concern

**OBSERVATIONS:**

- Based upon the limited sample size it is not possible to draw any statistically sound conclusions but the results indicate that the methods used to risk assess items and sources appear to validate the predicted results:
  - a. 4 of the 5 companies projected to be High Risk placed a non compliant toy on the market
  - b. 1 company from both the Medium and Low risk placed a non compliant toy on the market
- Due to the high number of 'ride on' type toy failures observed, the NMO is recommending that they focus more intently on this type of toy.
- The NMO is recommending that testing continue in 2016/2017 for small and medium sized enterprises including online e-tailers.

**CONCLUSION:**

The sample size does not allow for a statistically valid indication of the targeted

market segment but it does continue to re-enforce that the supply chain is still struggling with compliance. The findings demonstrate that suppliers and product manufacturers must continue to exercise "reasonable due diligence" to validate the material composition of their products. The industry has come a long way, but the struggle to achieve and maintain compliance is ongoing.

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