

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

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FRANCE EXTENDS TEMPORARY BAN FOR FORMAMIDE IN PUZZLE MATS

France recently extended the temporary restriction of formamide in puzzle mats. The extension period is 12 months and took effect on 1 August 2012.

In December 2010, Belgium and France were the first Member States in the EU to announce the removal of puzzle mats from shelves due to excessive quantities of formamide; a substance classified as reprotoxic (toxic to reproduction)¹.

In July 2011, France restricted formamide in puzzle mats on an interim basis². This law recognised the use of one of three designated methods and their corresponding limits for demonstration of compliance. The validity of the restriction was until July 2012.

On 5 August 2012, France extended the restriction of formamide in puzzle mats for a further 1 year³. The new law restricts formamide to no more than 200 mg/kg. The new law took effect on 1 August 2012 and is valid until 31 July 2013. Highlights of

the new temporary restriction are summarised in Table 1.

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

TABLE 1.

JURISDICTION	REGULATION	SUBSTANCE	SCOPE	REQUIREMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
France	Order of 1 August 2012 (Official Gazette No. 181 of 5 August 2012)	Formamide	Puzzle Mats	≤ 200 mg/kg	1 August 2012 (until 31 July 2013)

¹ [Safeguards 211/10](#)

² [Safeguards 142/11](#)

³ [Order of 1 August 2012, Page 12860, Official Gazette No. 181 of 5 August 2012 \(in French\)](#)

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