

CHINA NOTIFIES WTO TO STRENGTHEN TWO TOY SAFETY STANDARDS

China has recently notified the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on proposed amendments to two toy safety standards. One proposal is to strengthen the migration limits for finger paints and the other is a new proposal to restrict six forms of phthalates in toy materials. The proposed date of adoption is December 2013 and the date of entry into force is June 2014.

On 1 July 2013, the Standardisation Administration of China (SAC) notified the WTO on two toy safety standards, GB 6675.1-201X (Basic Code)¹ and GB 6675.4-201X (Migration of certain elements)².

The standard GB 6675-2003 is proposed to split into four separate standards:

1. GB 6675.1-201X (Basic Code)
2. GB 6675.2-201X (Mechanical and physical properties)³
3. GB 6675.3-201X (Flammability)⁴
4. GB 6675.4-201X (Migration of certain elements).

The proposed amendment by the inclusion of 6 forms of phthalates (BBP, DBP, DEHP, DIDP, DINP and DNOP) to GB 6675.1-201X provides new improvements to toy safety. Under the proposal, the 6 phthalates are differentiated into 2 groups of 3 phthalates. The phthalates BBP, DBP and DEHP are restricted to no more than 0.1% in a toy material. The other 3 phthalates (DIDP, DINP and DNOP) are restricted to no more than 0.1% if a toy material can be placed in the mouth.

The migration limits for both finger paints and modelling clay in GB 6675-2003 are identical. The revised proposal GB 6675.4-201X clearly differentiates migration limits for finger paints from modelling clay. The newly adjusted migration limits for finger paints have been strengthened relative to modelling clay. This differentiation is a major deviation from ISO 8124-3:2010, an international standard on which the majority of technical specifications have been adopted in the proposal.

According to the WTO notifications, GB 6675.1-201X and GB 6675.4-201X are going to be adopted in December 2013 and enter into force in June 2014.

Highlights on the prominent changes in the proposed GB 6675.1-201X and GB 6675.4-201X are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.



¹ [G/TBT/N/CHN/969, WTO](#), and references therein
[GB 6675.1-201X \(Basic Code\)](#)

² [G/TBT/N/CHN/972, WTO](#), and references therein

³ [G/TBT/N/CHN/970, WTO](#), and references therein

⁴ [G/TBT/N/CHN/971, WTO](#), and references therein

TABLE 1. PROPOSED REVISION TO INCLUDE 6 PHTHALATES TO GB 6675.1-201X (BASIC CODE)

GB 6675.1-201X (BASIC CODE)				
SUBSTANCE	CAS	SCOPE	REQUIREMENT	PROPOSED DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)	84-74-2	Toy	≤ 0.1 % (sum)	June 2014
Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)	85-68-7			
Bis-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)	117-81-7			
Di-n-octyl phthalate (DNOP)	117-84-0	Toy that can be placed in the mouth	≤ 0.1 % (sum)	
Diisononyl phthalate (DINP)	68515-48-0			
Diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP)	26761-40-0			
Exemption ≤ 10 mg of toy material				

TABLE 2. PROPOSED NEWLY ADJUSTED MIGRATION LIMITS FOR FINGER PAINTS TO GB 6675.4-201X (MIGRATION OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS)

GB 6675.4-201X (MIGRATION OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS)				
SOLUBLE ELEMENT	MIGRATION LIMIT (MG/KG)			PROPOSED DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
	MODELLING CLAY	TOY MATERIAL OTHER THAN MODELLING CLAY AND FINGER PAINT	FINGER PAINT (NEWLY ADJUSTED)	
Antimony (Sb)	60	60	10	June 2014
Arsenic (As)	25	25	10	
Barium (Ba)	250	1000	350	
Cadmium (Cd)	50	75	15	
Chromium (Cr)	25	60	25	
Lead (Pb)	90	90	25	
Mercury (Hg)	25	60	10	
Selenium (Se)	500	500	50	

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