

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

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REVISED AND NEW EU GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS TO THE EU TOY SAFETY DIRECTIVE

The EU Commission expert group on toy safety has published a large number of guidance documents intended to help on interpretation issues related to the toy directive. On a regular basis documents are revised and new guidance documents are published.

Recently the following documents have been revised:

- Guidance No. 7: Toys used in and on the water
- Guidance No. 12: Packaging
- Guidance on interpretation "which can be placed in the mouth" related to the phthalates requirements (REACH regulation 1907/2006)

A new guidance has been published for:

- Guidance No. 16: Electronic equipment

All guidance documents can be found on the EU commission website using the following [link](#).

GUIDANCE NO. 7: Toys used in and on the water (full text of the guidance is available at the following [link](#))

Changes compared to the previous guidance:

Inflatable toys for use in water and intended to be played on:

The reference to the suitability of these toys for only children over 3 years of age is deleted, as these toys may be intended for under 3 years as well.

Bathing rings:

The classification of bath rings has changed. With the publication of this revision, bath rings with NO play value are NO longer regarded as toys. Only bath rings with play value, like animal shaped attachments are regarded as toys.



Examples of toy bath rings



Examples of leisure bath rings that are NOT toys



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GUIDANCE NO. 12: Packaging (full text of the guidance is available at the following [link](#))

The guidance on packaging has been amended in order to clarify the definition of toy bags:

Wording stating that toy bags might be intended to use in play is deleted and a new definition is added on toy bags:

Toy bags: bag, clearly intended for use, often having features designed to encourage the child to use the bag in play activities.

NEW GUIDANCE NO. 16: Electronic equipment (full text of the guidance is available at the following [link](#))

The new guidance clarifies what electronic equipment (like computers and game consoles) and their peripherals (like key boards, joy sticks or steering wheels) can be

regarded as toys according to the Toys Directive.

It is clarified that only products that are specifically designed for and targeted at children and have a play value on their own are to be regarded as toys.

Most computer equipment and their peripherals are either not specifically designed for and targeted at children or have no play value on their own.



Examples of electronic equipment regarded as toys
The guidance is illustrated with many other examples.

GUIDANCE ON INTERPRETATION “WHICH CAN BE PLACED IN THE MOUTH” RELATED TO THE PHTHALATES REQUIREMENTS (REACH REGULATION 1907/2006) (full text of the guidance can be found [here](#))

Only the reference to the revised toy and phthalates directives has been changed, in order to make sure the current legislation is referenced. The content of the guidance has not been changed.

Throughout our global network, SGS offers consultation and comprehensive testing services covering the full spectrum of international product safety and regulatory standard for a wide range of children’s products. Please don’t hesitate to contact one of our 15 toys labs if you need further information and visit our [toy website](#).

*The pictures originate from the EU guidance documents

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