

SAFE GUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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FRANCE SPECIFIES METHODS AND LIMITS FOR FORMAMIDE IN PUZZLE MATS

France accepts one of three testing methods for demonstration of compliance with formamide in puzzle mats. This new law is effective until 20 July, 2012.

In December 2010, France and Belgium became the first 2 member states in the European Union (EU) to announce the removal of puzzle mats containing excessive levels of formamide¹. At that time, France prohibited the marketing of puzzle mats for three months followed by an extension of the prohibition until 15 July 2011².

On 22 July 2011, France published its requirements for formamide in puzzle mats in the Official Journal of the French Republic³. The new law allows three possible methods and their corresponding limits for demonstration of compliance. One of the methods analyses formamide content and the other two methods determine the emission of formamide using chamber methods.

Until 20 July 2012, a manufacturer, importer or distributor cannot place puzzle mats on the market unless demonstration of compliance is achieved using one of these three methods. Highlights of the new law are summarised in Table 1.



¹ [SafeGuards 211/10](#)

² [SafeGuards 78/11](#)

³ [Arrêté du 20 juillet 2011 portant suspension de la mise sur le marché des jouets en mousse « tapis-puzzles » émettant du formamide, texte no. 18, page 12563, JORF no. 0168 du 22 juillet 2011](#) (Order of 20 July, 2011, suspending the marketing of toy foams 'puzzle mats' emitting formamide, page 12563, text 18, Official Gazette No. 168, 22 July 2011)

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TABLE 1

SUBSTANCE	SCOPE	METHOD	REQUIREMENT	EFFECTIVE UNTIL
Formamide (CAS 75-12-7)	Puzzle Mats	Acetone / GCMS	≤ 2 mg/kg	20 July 2012
		ISO 16000-6 and EN ISO 16000-9 (7 days)	≤ 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	
		ISO 16000-6 and EN ISO 16000-9 (28 days)	≤ 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	

SGS will follow up and inform interested parties about developments on regulations relating to consumer products as a complimentary service.

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 restricted substances in a comprehensive range of consumer products for the French, EU and worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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