

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

NO. 172/14 OCTOBER 2014

EU NOTIFIES WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION OF DRAFT DIRECTIVE TO STRENGTHEN LEAD MIGRATION LIMITS

The European Union (EU) has recently notified the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of a draft Commission Directive to strengthen the migration limits for lead in toys. The proposed enforcement date is 18 months after publication in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

On 25 September 2014, the EU notified the WTO of a draft Commission Directive to amend the migration limits for lead in toys¹. If adopted, the enforcement date will be 18 months after publication in the OJEU.

The migration limits for lead under the Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC (TSD) were based on a 2008 report of the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)². The report was based on the conclusion that the exposure of children to lead may not exceed the tolerable daily intake (DTI) level of 3.6 mg/kg per day as the toxicological reference value.

According to new scientific knowledge published by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), the new toxicological reference value to be used for establishing lead limits is the benchmark dose limit (BMDL₀₁) relating to neuro-developmental effects and the DTI should no longer be used as the toxicological reference value.

Under the notification, the migration limits for lead would be more stringent for all 3 toy material categories; with limits proposed to be lowered by 6-7 fold.

Highlights of the notification are summarised in Table 1.



¹ [WTO notification](#).

² [Chemicals in Toys. A general methodology for assessment of chemical safety in toys with a focus on elements. RIVM report 320003001/2008](#)

	Migration Limit for Lead (mg/kg)			
	Toy Material			
	Category I (Dry, brittle, powder like or pliable)	Category II (Liquid or sticky)	Category III (Scraped-off)	Enforcement Date
Toy Safety Directive (TSD)	13.5	3.4	160	20 July 2013
WTO Notification	2.0	0.5	23	18 months after publication in OJEU

Definitions and examples of toy materials

Toy Material Category	Toy material	Examples
I	Dry, brittle, powder-like or pliable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compressed paint tablets Chalk, crayons, plaster of Paris, magic sand, modelling compounds, plasticine Oven hardened PVC modelling compounds, bouncing putty
II	Liquid or sticky toy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubble solutions, poster paints, finger paints Liquid adhesives, glue sticks, slimes
III	Scraped-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface coating materials (paints, varnish) Polymers (Polystyrene, ABS, PVC, polypropylene (PP), rubber, EVA foam, elastomers, leatherette) Wood (fibreboards, chipboards, plywood) Textiles (fuzzy felts, cotton wool, polyester staple fibres, plush fabrics) Glass, ceramics (marbles, fibre glass) Metals and alloys (steel, nickel-silver) Other materials (leather, bone, natural sponge)



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