SAFEGUARDS SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

NO. 205/11 NOV 2011

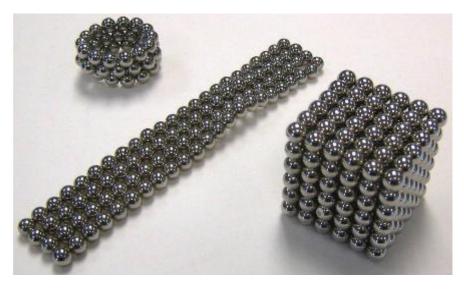
CPSC WARNS THAT SAFETY RISKS PERSIST WITH HIGH-POWERED MAGNETS

According to a US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) press release issued on 10 November 2011, small powerful magnets in certain products – such as jewelry intended to simulate piercings, magnetic executive gifts intended as "stress relievers" or desk accessories, as well as magnets in office supplies – are subject to the CPSC warning¹.

The CPSC reported that incidents involving high-powered magnets have been on the rise from one case in 2009 to 14 incidents through October 2011. These occurrences have involved children aged from 18 months to 15 years old. In some instances toddlers have found loose magnets that have fallen within reach, or have been able to access loose magnets left on a table, refrigerator, sofa or the floor according to the CPSC. <u>The report</u> also indicated that in some instances, these magnets were swallowed intentionally.

The CPSC is urging parents to take extra care to ensure that young children and those who still mouth objects do not have access to these types of small powerful magnets. When ingested, these dangerous magnets can cause internal bleeding, intestinal blockage, blood poisoning or even death.

¹ <u>CPSC Warns about Danger of High-Powered</u> <u>Magnets in Certain Non-Toy Products</u>



A mandatory toy safety standard (ASTM F963) currently exists to address hazardous magnets in any piece of a toy that is small enough to be swallowed and intended for children under 14 years. Toys containing loose, as-received hazardous magnets or as-received magnetic components that have a flux index of 50 or greater and a specific shape and size shall carry safety labelling on their packaging and instructions.

A new safety standard for children's jewellery (ASTM F2923), which includes testing and labelling requirements for hazardous magnets contained in jewellery, was released on 10, November 2011. This standard is available for purchase at the <u>ASTM</u> <u>website</u>.



SGS has published several news bulletins² on the issue of magnetic parts in toys and other children's products due to the safety implications. We will continue to monitor the issue and inform interested parties about regulations and standards on magnetic parts in children's products.

² SafeGuardS 015/08 Magnetic Toys Warning Label SafeGuardS 010/08 Magnetic Toys SafeGuardS 031/07 Hazardous Magnets in Toys SafeGuardS 087/07 EU magnets in toys SafeGuardS 086/07 France magnets in toys SafeguardS-061/09-AS-NZS-ISO-81241-2002 Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a wide range of services including, analytical testing and consultancy work for technical and non-technical parameters applicable to a comprehensive range of consumer products. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre: <u>gcsc@sgs.com</u> US-Ali Karimi , Tel: + 973-575-5252 or <u>Ali.Karimi@sgs.com</u> US-Piyush Shah, Tel: +973 575 5252 or <u>Piyush.Shah@sgs.com</u>

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 <u>mktg.hk@sgs.com</u> Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 <u>au.cts@sgs.com</u> Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 203 00 7870 <u>gb.cts.sales@sgs.com</u> Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 <u>sgs.turkey@sgs.com</u> Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 <u>uscts.inquiries@sgs.com</u>

www.sgs.com/cts Global Competence Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com If you wish to unsubscribe to this technical bulletin, go here: Unsubscribe © 2011 SGS SA. All rights reserved. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3^{er} parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3^{er} parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.



WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE