

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

NO. 183/09 NOVEMBER 2009

## VIETNAM ADOPTS TOY SAFETY REGULATIONS

In June 2009, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam adopted a Technical Regulation on the safety of toys. The new law establishes requirements for the safety of children's toys, the corresponding methods, quality management for domestic production, import and circulation in the market. The regulation is effective 15 April, 2010.

In 2008, Vietnam published a draft 'National Technical Regulation on Safety of Toys' (QCVN:2008/BKHCN)<sup>1</sup>. In June 2009, Vietnam issued a Circular for the promulgation and implementation of toy safety requirements<sup>2</sup>. Children's toys are defined as products or any materials designed for children under 16 years old during play. The new law mandates physical and mechanical requirements, flammability, electrical safety, labelling and chemical requirements. Highlights on the requirements are summarised in Table 1.



<sup>1</sup> [National Technical Regulation on Safety of Toys \(Draft\), QCVN : 2008/BKHCN, Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, 2008;](#)  
[Safeguards 87/08 'Vietnam Proposed Toy Safety Regulations](#), Hardlines, SGS Consumer Testing Services, October 2008

<sup>2</sup> [Circular No 18/2009/TT-BKHCN 'Promulgating and implementing 'Technical Regulation on safety national children's toys'](#), Ministry of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, June 26, 2009;  
[National Technical Regulation on Safety of Toys, QCVN 3 2009/BKHCN](#), Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2009

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Scope	Parameter	Standard	Requirement			Effective date
Toys for children under 16 years old	Physical and Mechanical	TCVN 6238-1:2008 (ISO 8124-1:2000)	TCVN 6238-1:2008 (ISO 8124-1:2000)			15 April 2010
	Flammability	TCVN 6238-2 (ISO 8124-2:2007)	TCVN 6238-2 (ISO 8124-2:2007)			
	Soluble heavy metals	TCVN 6238-3 (ISO 8124-3:1997)		<b>Toy</b>	<b>Modelling clay and finger paint</b>	
			Antimony	≤ 60 ppm	≤ 60 ppm	
			Arsenic	≤ 25 ppm	≤ 25 ppm	
			Barium	≤ 1000 ppm	≤ 250 ppm	
			Cadmium	≤ 75 ppm	≤ 50 ppm	
			Chromium	≤ 60 ppm	≤ 25 ppm	
			Lead	≤ 90 ppm	≤ 90 ppm	
			Mercury	≤ 60 ppm	≤ 25 ppm	
Selenium	≤ 500 ppm	≤ 500 ppm				
Primary aromatic amines	EN 71 10-11	≤ 5 mg/kg each aromatic amine				
Toys for children under 3 years old	Formaldehyde (Textiles)	TCVN 7421-1:2004 (ISO 14184-1)	≤ 30 mg/kg			
	Formaldehyde (Paper)	EN 645 / EN 1541	≤ 30 mg/kg			
	Formaldehyde (Resin-bonded wood)	EN 717-3	≤ 80 mg/kg			
Accessible liquids in toys	pH	ISO 787-9	10 ≥ pH ≥ 3			

Table 1

Conformity mark:



**EXEMPTION**

The following are not considered as toys

- Bicycles, except for those considered to be toys, i.e. those having a maximum saddle height of 435 mm,
- Slingshots (catapults),
- Darts with metal points,
- Home and public playground equipment,
- Compressed air and gas operated guns and pistols,
- kites (except for the electric resistance of their strings, which is included, as defined in TCVN 6238-1:2008 (ISO 8124-1:2000)),





- Model kits, hobby and craft items in which the finished item is not primarily of play value,
  - Sporting goods and equipment, camping goods, athletic equipment, musical instruments and furniture, however, toys that are their counterparts are included:
- ⇒ It is recognized that there is often a fine distinction between, for example, a musical instrument or a sporting item and its toy counterpart. The intention of the manufacturer or distributor, as well as normal use and reasonably foreseeable abuse, determines whether the item is a toy counterpart or not.
- Models of aircraft, rockets, boats and land vehicles powered by combustion engines; however, toys that are their counterparts are included,
  - Collectible products not intended for children under 16 years of age,
  - Holiday decorations that are primarily intended for ornamental purposes,
  - Aquatic equipment intended to be used in deep water,
  - Toys installed in public places (e.g. arcades and shopping centres),
  - Puzzles having more than 500 pieces or without a picture, for specialists,
  - Fireworks including percussion caps, except percussion caps specifically designed for toys,

- Products containing heating elements intended for use under the supervision of an adult in a teaching context,
- Steam engines,
- Video toys that can be connected to a video screen and operated at a nominal voltage greater than 24 V,
- Babies' pacifiers (dummies),
- Faithful reproduction of firearms,
- Electric ovens, irons or other functional products operated at a nominal voltage greater than 24 V,
- Bows for archery with an overall relaxed length exceeding 120cm
- Fashion jewellery for children.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for chemical and non-chemical parameters in a comprehensive range of toys and consumer products for worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

#### FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: [gscs@sgs.com](mailto:gscs@sgs.com)  
 Hingwo Tsang, Tel: +852 2774 7148 or [Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com](mailto:Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com)  
 Phong Tran, Tel: +84 8 9351932 or [Phong.Tran@sgs.com](mailto:Phong.Tran@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 [mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)  
 Australasia \_ Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 [au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)  
 Europe – London —UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 [gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto:gb.cts.sales@sgs.com)  
 Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 [sgs.turkey@sgs.com](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)  
 Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 [Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com](mailto:Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com)

[www.sgs.com](http://www.sgs.com) Global Competences Support Centre: [gscs@sgs.com](mailto:gscs@sgs.com)

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