

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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## EN 71-1:2005 +A8 HARMONISED

New amendments to the toy safety standard EN 71-1: 2005 have been published and harmonised<sup>1</sup>. The standard is harmonised on 30<sup>th</sup> of April by publication in the Official Journal of the EU. The harmonisation by EU Commission has been done by a fast track procedure in order to include important requirements for magnets in toys.

The new version includes two major amendments:

- Warnings A7
- Magnets A8

The old version of the standard EN 71-1: 2005 +A6 may be used until 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2009.

See below a summary of the new requirements for warnings and magnets.

### A8 Magnets: Accidents and incidents

Several incidents and accidents have been reported where small, strong magnets have been ingested by children. When two or more magnets are swallowed they can attract each other in the child's body and cause intestinal perforation or blockage. Surgery is needed to remove the magnets.

### A8 Magnets: Proposed requirements:

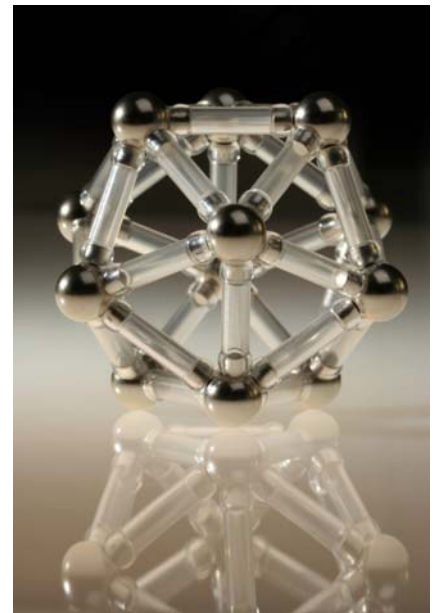
Magnets in toys should either be weak or have large dimensions.

Weak magnets will not attract each other across intestinal walls. Large magnets will not be ingested.

The requirements apply for all ages (up to 14 years) .

The specific requirements are: **"Magnets or magnetic components shall either have a magnetic flux index less than 50 kG<sup>2</sup>mm<sup>2</sup> (0,5 T<sup>2</sup>mm<sup>2</sup>) or shall not fit entirely in the small parts cylinder"**

For measuring the magnetic flux index a new test method is introduced. This method is similar to the ASTM F963 method and requires a Gauss meter.



Magnets that are imbedded in components should not be released. The possible release of magnets is tested using methods like, drop test, impact test, tension test etc. In the case of recessed magnets, where the tension test can not be applied a new test is introduced where the magnet is pulled out by another magnet or a nickel disk.

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<sup>1</sup> [link to the publication in the OJEU.](#)

Exemptions: **Functional magnets in electrical or electronic components of toys** are exempted from the requirements. They are not considered to present the same risk as magnets that form part of the play pattern. The use of magnets in these components may not be recognized, as they will be present inside electrical motors, speakers or in relays in electronic printing boards.

### A8 Magnets: Warning requirements

*Magnetic/electrical experimental sets* that are intended for children over 8 years are excluded from the requirements provided that they carry a warning. The exemption applies only to the more advanced experimental sets that include building of electrical motors, loudspeakers, doorbells etc., i.e. products that need both magnetism and electricity for their function.

The proposed warning is: **"WARNING! Not intended for children under 8 years. This product contains (a) small magnet(s). Swallowed magnets can stick together across intestines causing serious injuries. Seek immediate medical attention if magnet(s) are swallowed"**.

Until the harmonisation of the new magnet requirements a warning on **ALL** toys containing ingestible magnets was required due to a temporary emergency EU decision 2008/329/EC. Decision 2008/329/EC was automatically revoked on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2009. Please note that in national Member States this decision still may exist as Member States do not have the same legislative tools as the EU.

### A7 Warnings: a selection of amended requirements

**Examples specific hazards for "Warning! Not suitable for children under 36 months ....."** : As examples for guidance and of what as a minimum is needed the following examples are given:

- "Warning! Not suitable for children under 36 months. Choking hazard"
- "Warning! Not suitable for children under 36 months. Suffocation hazard"
- "Warning! Not suitable for children under 36 months. Strangulation hazard"

When more than one hazard is present, at least the principal hazard shall be indicated

**Symbol representing: "Warning! Not suitable for children under 36 months ....."** Currently the symbol is not specified in EN 71-1, but in EN 71-6.

For convenience the symbol requirements will be included in EN 71-1 and EN 71-6 can be revoked.



**Rocking horses:** rocking horses having a sitting height of more than 600 mm will require a warning "Warning! Risk of falling. Do not leave children under 36 months sitting or playing unattended."

The warning requirements have been revised in order to provide consistent wording throughout the standard. In former versions of the standard there may be misunderstanding on where the warning clauses should appear. Also the location of the warnings is more specified. Some information is essential to be visible at the point of sale, other information is needed during use.

Our SGS toy labs are competent and equipped for testing according to the new magnet requirements. We also can provide first hand advise and interpretation. SGS has been largely involved in leading the standardization work on both magnets and warnings. Please feel free to contact our labs.

#### FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: [gsc@sgs.com](mailto:gsc@sgs.com)  
Sanda Stefanovic Tel: +(31-181) 694.517 or [Sanda.Stefanovic@sgs.com](mailto:Sanda.Stefanovic@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: +90 212 225 0024 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)

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