

SAFEGUARDS

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CANADA BANS PHTHALATES IN TOYS AND CHILDCARE ARTICLES

Canada recently announced a ban on 6 types of phthalates in vinyl materials in toys and childcare articles. The effective date is 10 June, 2011.



In December 2010, Canada amended Part II of Schedule I to the Hazardous Products Act (Phthalates) for 'Toys and child care articles composed of vinyl that contains phthalates within the meaning of the Phthalates Regulations'¹ and Regulations Amending the Hazardous Products (Toys) Regulations². On 22 December, 2010, the Canada Gazette published the 'Phthalates Regulations' to announce the ban on 6 phthalates in vinyl toys and childcare articles³. The use of DEHP, DBP and BBP is restricted in vinyl toys and childcare articles whereas the use of DIDP, DINP and DNOP is restricted in vinyl toys and childcare articles that can be placed in the mouth of a child under the age of 4. The ban becomes effective on 10 June 2011 (6 months after 10 December 2010, the date of registration). Highlights of the ban are summarized in Table 1.

¹ [Order Amending Schedule I to the Hazardous Products Act \(Phthalates\)](#), Hazardous Products Act, Part II, Official Regulations, Vol. 144, No. 26, December 22, 2010, Canada Gazette,

² [Regulations Amending the Hazardous Products \(Toys\) Regulations](#), Hazardous Products Act, Part II, Official Regulations, Vol. 144, No. 26, December 22, 2010, Canada Gazette,

³ [Phthalates Regulations](#), Hazardous Products Act, Part II, Official Regulations, Vol. 144, No. 26, December 22, 2010

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| PHTHALATE | SCOPE | REQUIREMENT | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|-----------|---|-------------|----------------|
| DEHP | Vinyl in toys or childcare articles | ≤ 0.1 % | 10 June 2011 |
| DBP | | ≤ 0.1 % | |
| BBP | | ≤ 0.1 % | |
| DIDP | Vinyl in toys or childcare articles that can be placed in the mouth of a child under 4 years of age | ≤ 0.1 % | |
| DINP | | ≤ 0.1 % | |
| DNOP | | ≤ 0.1 % | |

Table 1

DEFINITIONS

- A 'Toy' is a product that is intended for use by a child under 14 years of age in learning or play
- A 'Childcare article' is a product that is intended to facilitate the relaxation, sleep, hygiene, feeding, sucking or teething of a child under 4 years of age.

INTERPRETATION

Can be placed in the mouth means:

- It can be brought to the child's mouth and kept there so that it can be sucked or chewed and
- One of its dimensions in the deflated state is < 5 cm.

For reference purposes the phthalates ban announced by Canada aligns their requirements with those of the US CPSIA in terms of allowable limits and products to which the ban is applicable. There is, however, a difference in the age limit for both 'toys' and 'childcare articles': the Canadian ban is applicable to toys for children under 14 years of age and childcare articles intended for children under 4 years of age, whereas the CPSIA requirement is applicable to

toys for ages 12 years and younger, and childcare articles for children under the aged 3 years and younger.

SGS will follow up and inform about developments on regulations or policies in consumer products as a complementary service

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a wide range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy, for phthalates, heavy metals and other restricted substances in toys and children's products for the Canadian and worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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