AUSTRALIA BANS CERTAIN DANGEROUS CONSUMER PRODUCTS

In June 2010, the Minister for Competition Policy & Consumer Affairs imposed an 18-month ban on certain yo-yo balls, inflatable toys, novelties and furniture items\(^1\). During the period June – July 2010, further temporary or permanent bans have been imposed on a variety of consumer products.

Highlights of the bans and their scopes are summarised in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Objects that are designed to hold or decorate a candle, which when subjected to flame or heat emanating from a candle being so held or decorated, ignite and continue to flame for a period of five (5) seconds or more after ignition(^2)</td>
<td>18-Month ban</td>
<td>24 June 2010</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Art, craft and stationary sets for use by a child containing an undeclared knife or cutter with a metal blade(^3)</td>
<td>18-Month ban</td>
<td>1 July 2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Interpretation</strong>&lt;br&gt;The declaration that the art, craft or stationary set includes a knife or cutter must be easily legible and prominently displayed on the outside packaging and the lettering must be &gt; 3 mm high</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>No Holes Tongue Studs(^4)</td>
<td>Permanent ban</td>
<td>1 July 2010</td>
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<td><strong>Definition</strong>&lt;br&gt;A ‘No Holes Tongue Stud’ is a small bead with an opening on one side only, which acts to create a vacuum and is intended for use as jewellery on the human tongue, without the need for piercing.</td>
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</tbody>
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2. Interim ban – Combustible candle holders, Product Safety Australia, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
4. Interim ban—Undeclared knives or cutters in stationery sets, Product Safety Australia, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
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 range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for restricted physical and chemical parameters in children’s and other consumer products for international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.