

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

NO. 167/10 SEPTEMBER 2010

JAPAN REVISED PHTHALATE REQUIREMENTS OF TOYS

On September 6th, 2010, the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) issued a notice (Notification N° 336) to enhance the regulation of the use of phthalates under the [Food Sanitation Law](#). In the future all plasticized materials in designated toys and child care articles will be in scope. The number of Phthalates which are restricted increased from two to six. Substances in the new scope are Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), Dibutylphthalate (DBP), Benzylbutylphthalate (BBP), Di-isononyl'phthalate (DINP), Di-isodecyl'phthalate (DIDP), and Di-n-octylphthalate (DNOP).

1. Purpose and background

Phthalates are substances which are used in some plastic materials (especially Polyvinylchloride (PVC)) in order to modify the materials characteristics and make them soft. In order to do so, those substances are technically used in large quantities (up to some 10% of the plastic material). Unfortunately phthalates are toxic for reproduction and may act as endocrine disruptors. Children are especially vulnerable to the exposure since e.g. toys made of plasticized materials are in close skin or mucosa contact for several hours per day. In recent years, the European Union and the United States were addressing this problem and have put regulations in place to limit phthalates in children's products. In August 2002, also Japan banned the use of two types of phthalates in

PVC-based resins as toy materials: DEHP for all types of designated toys, DINP for the toys intended to be placed in the mouth of infants, such as pacifiers and teethingers. Now this regulation was expanded.

2. Summary of comparison

current	revised
(1) DEHP shall not be used as toy materials which major component is PVC-based resin.	(1) DBP, DEHP or BBP shall not be contained at concentrations of greater than 0.1% by mass of the plasticized material in toys.
(2) DINP shall not be used as toy materials which major component is PVC-based resin as specified in Article 78, Paragraph 1 of the enforcement regulations of the Food Sanitation Law.	(2) DIDP, DINP or DNOP shall not be contained at concentrations of greater than 0.1% by mass of the plasticized material in toys as specified in Article 78, Paragraph 1 of the regulation of the Food Sanitation Law (this requirement applies only to their parts that are intended to be placed in the mouth).
	(3) DINP shall not be used as toy materials which major component is PVC-based resin (except the parts that are intended to come in contact with infant's mouth, as defined in 2) as specified in Article 78, paragraph 1 of the enforcement regulations of the Food Sanitation Law.

Designated toys that will be covered by Article 78 of the regulation of the Food Sanitation Law:

- a. Infant toys that are intended to come into contact with the infant's mouth.
- b. Toy accessories, transfer pictures, okiagari, masks, origami, rattles, educational toys, building blocks, toy phones, toy animals, dolls, clay, toy vehicles, balloons, blocks, balls, toys for playing house, etc.
- c. Toys that are played with in combination with those toys listed under number.

3. Date of enforcement

This new requirement is applicable from the date of announcement with a one year transition period. Manufactured or imported goods must refer to the new requirement on September 6th, 2011.

SGS will follow up and keep you informed about developments of the regulation in consumer products as a complementary service.

Through our global network of laboratories, we enable to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy work for technical and non-technical parameters in a comprehensive range of consumer products in the chemical field. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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