

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES, SOFTLINES,
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The US State of Washington Sets Strictest Standards for Toys and Children's Products

The Governor of the State of Washington signed HB 2647 into law to restrict the use of lead, cadmium and phthalates in toys and children's products. The unparalleled requirements for lead and cadmium content made the State of Washington having the strictest requirements in these products in the US. The effective date for these requirements is 1 July 2009.

We recently published a Safeguard summarizing the proposed restriction of phthalates, lead and cadmium in children's products in a number of States, including the State of Washington [House Bill (HB) 2647]¹. The HB 2647 has been revised since its passage in the Senate and the Governor of the State of Washington approved with the exception of two specific sections of the bill on Tuesday April 1, 2008.

The Governor of Washington, Chris Gregoire, signed HB 2647 (Dickinson, 2008) into law and thus making Washington a State with the toughest restrictions on lead content in children's products in the US. She has opened the door for significant changes to be made to the bill over the next few years. This would include the creation of an advisory group to assess its standards,

timelines and testing requirements. Governor Gregoire also directed the state Department of Ecology, working with the advisory group, to prepare rules to clarify the bill does not apply to internal electronic components that are inaccessible to children, such as chip boards and wiring in items like educational games. Governor Gregoire vetoed two sections of the measure, including a deadline for completion of the list of other potentially harmful toxins. Highlights of the bill are in Table 1.



Table 1. Restricted substances for toys and children's products in the State of Washington

Substance	Scope	Requirement (ppm)	Effective date
Lead Content	Children's products	90 ²	1 July 2009
Cadmium Content		40	
Phthalate (DEHP, DBP, BBP, DINP, DIDP or DNOP)		0.1 % (individually or in combination)	

¹ Safeguards 16/08 ' [US Legislation Updates: Part 1](#) ', March 2008

² If determined feasible for manufacturers to achieve and necessary to protect children's health, the department may by rule require that a children's product component shall not contain more than 40 ppm of lead content.

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Children's product include any of the following:

- Toys,
- Children's cosmetic for under the age of 12 including articles intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance, and articles intended for use as a component of such an article³,
- Children's jewellery for under the age of 12,
- A product designed or intended by the manufacturer to help a child with sucking or teething, to facilitate sleep, relaxation, or the feeding of a child, or to be worn as clothing by children,
- Child car seats.

Children's product does not include the following

- Batteries,
- Slings and Catapults,
- Sets of darts with metallic points
- Toy steam engines,
- Bicycles and tricycles,

- Video toys that can be connected to a video screen and are operated at a nominal voltage exceeding 24 V,
- Chemistry Sets,
- Consumer electronic products eg personal computers, audio and video equipment, calculators, wireless phones, game consoles,
- Interactive software,
- BB Guns, pellet guns and air rifles
- Snow sporting equipment, including skis, poles, boots, snow boards, sleds and bindings,
- Sporting equipment including bats, balls, gloves, sticks, puck and pads,
- Roller skates, scooters, model rockets, athletic shoes with cleats or spikes,
- Pocket knives and multi-tools.

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



³ Cosmetics do not include soap, dietary supplements, or food and drugs approved by the US FDA

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