

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

SOFTLINES

NO. 001/12 JAN 2012

KOREA PROPOSES REVISION TO SAFETY AND QUALITY LABELLING STANDARDS

The Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) recently announced a proposal to amend the “Safety and Quality Labelling Standards for Industrial Products Subject to Safety and Quality Labelling (Annex 1: Home Textile Products)”¹. According to the document released by the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade of the World Trade Organisation, such requirements shall be applicable no earlier than September 2012².

Intention of the amendment:

- To revise the safety and quality labelling standards for children’s clothing in order to ensure the safety of children against hazard and injury from harmful materials or fire, by restricting the use of harmful materials or inserting warning messages.

Main contents of the amendment:

- Adding the restriction of the use of nickel for electromagnetic shielding textile products.
- A clear indication of flame mark (“Caution Flame” symbol) is compulsory for children’s sleepwear which is vulnerable to fire.
- Restriction of the use of phthalate plasticizer in bags for children is added.
- Clarify items which also are subject to safety management:
 - Textile products for children: bags (including school bags)
 - Middle wear: swimsuits, gym wear, tracksuits, cold masks
 - Outer wear: arm warmers
 - Bedding: hammocks



¹ [KATS proposal on revision to Safety and Quality Labelling Standards for Industrial Products \(Annex 1: Home Textile Products\) \(In Korean\)](#)

[KATS proposal on revision to Safety and Quality Labelling Standards for Industrial Products \(Annex 1: Home Textile Products\) \(In English\)](#)

² [G/TBT/N/KOR/330, Official Document of Committee of Technical Barriers to Trade, World Trade Organisation](#)

SGS

TABLE 1: CURRENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS UNDER SAFETY AND QUALITY MARK CRITERIA:

TEST ITEM	REQUIREMENTS			
	TEXTILE PRODUCTS FOR CHILDREN (UP TO 12 YRS)*	INNER WEAR	MIDDLE WEAR	OUTERWEAR & BEDDING
Formaldehyde (mg/kg)	75 or below			300 or below
pH	From 4.0 to 7.5			From 4.0 to 9.0
Azo Dye (mg/kg)	30 or below			
Organotin compounds (mg/kg)	TBT	1.0 or below		
Dimethylfumarate (mg/kg)	0.1 or below			
Total phthalate plasticizer (%)	0.1 or below	NA	NA	NA
Lead (mg/kg)	90 or below	NA	NA	NA
Cords and drawstrings	Conformance (As suitable)	NA	NA	NA
Flame retardants	None			
Disperse dye (mg/kg)	None		NA	NA

* Textile products for children (up to 12 yrs) include inner wear, middle wear, outer wear, tights, socks and bags (including school bags).

TABLE 2: PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENT FOR SAFETY AND QUALITY MARK CRITERIA FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS:

TEST ITEM	REQUIREMENTS			
	TEXTILE PRODUCTS FOR CHILDREN (UP TO 12 YRS)*	INNER WEAR	MIDDLE WEAR	OUTERWEAR & BEDDING
Nickel release [#]	Below 0.5 µg/cm ² /week			

[#] The yield of Nickel release is applied to electromagnetic shielding products (e.g. fabrics / mesh with electromagnetic shielding properties) or metallic materials.

* Textile products for children (up to 12 yrs) include inner wear, middle wear, outer wear, tights, socks and bags (including school bags).

For more information on the Safety and Quality Mark Act for Textile Products, please refer to the previous issue of [Safeguards No. 051/10](#).

Throughout our global network of laboratories and offices, we offer high quality testing for textile, footwear and accessories. For more information, please feel free to contact us or [visit our website](#).

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com
Global Softlines Development Office: mailto:global.sl@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 mktg.hk@sgs.com
Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 au.cts@sgs.com
Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 203 00 7870 gb.cts.sales@sgs.com
Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 sgs.turkey@sgs.com
Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

www.sgs.com/cts Global Competence Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com

If you wish to unsubscribe to this technical bulletin, go here: [Unsubscribe](#)

© 2012 SGS SA. All rights reserved. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3rd parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3rd parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.