

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

TOY & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

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KOREA PLANS TO LIMIT FIVE CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

The Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment (MoE) proposed to limit di-n-octyl phthalate (DNOP), diisononyl phthalate (DINP), nonylphenol, chloroethylene and tin-organic compounds, in children's products in its annual policy report for 2012¹.

Proposals are being drawn up to establish acceptable limits for chemical substances used in children's products ranging from feeding bottles to toys. Aim is to restrict production and distribution of products which exceed those limits. The proposal also covers children's environments, such as day care centres and playgrounds, where safety control standards may apply to facilities built after 2009 – and may be applied to all relevant facilities by 2016.

In the Republic of Korea, most controls on chemicals used in children's products are implemented by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy (MKE), which is responsible for setting standards for the levels of substances permitted. In addition, MKE is responsible for introducing new product requirements, sampling methods, component analysis and restrictions on use.

However, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is working on supplementary controls, especially focused on persistent hazardous substances. Specifically it is working on five substances used in children's products, which are two phthalates (di-n-octyl phthalate (DNOP) and diisononyl phthalate (DINP)), nonylphenol, chloroethylene and tin-organic compounds.

The permitted levels of each substance will be based on the results of risk assessments. While the schedule in implementing the substance limitation may

change, the current plan is to set the limits by mid-2012. The start to implement the controls is planned by the end of this year.

SGS will follow up and inform interested parties regarding developments in regulations on chemicals in consumer products. Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a wide range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for restricted substances for consumer products for international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

¹ http://www.me.go.kr/download/2012_plan.pdf
(available in Korean only)

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