

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS

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## EU STRENGTHENS REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLUBLE CADMIUM IN TOYS

The EU recently set more stringent limits for soluble cadmium under the new Toy Safety Directive. Member States are required to transpose the new requirements into national law by 20 January 2013. The effective date will be the same as for other chemical requirements: 20 July 2013.

In June 2009, the new Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC (TSD) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). The new TSD came into force on 20 July 2009 and Member States began applying the new measures from 20 July 2011. There is an exception for the chemical requirements under part III of ANNEX II. These chemical requirements will come into force on 20 July 2013.

On 3 March 2012, [Directive 2012/7/EU](#) was published in the OJEU. The new Directive, in light of new scientific data, sets more stringent migration limits for cadmium:

- from 1.9 mg/kg to 1.3 mg/kg (dry, brittle, powder-like or pliable toy material)
- from 0.5 mg/kg to 0.3 mg/kg (liquid or sticky toy material)
- from 23 mg/kg to 17 mg/kg (scraped-off toy material)

Member States are required to transpose the new Directive into their national law by 20 January 2013. The effective date for chemicals (part III of ANNEX II, new TSD) remains on 20 July 2013. Highlights of the migration limits for the 19 heavy metal elements, including a comparison of the 'old' and 'new' limits between cadmium under entry 6, are summarised in Table 1. For ease of reference, examples of toy materials are highlighted in Table 2<sup>2</sup>.

The change of the limits for soluble cadmium is due to the so-called comitology procedure. This new procedure enables the EU Commission to modify parts of the directive without approval from both the European Parliament and Council.



Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for restricted substances in toys and consumer products for the EU and other international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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<sup>1</sup> [Directive 2009/48/EC](#)  
[Safeguard 124/09](#)

<sup>2</sup> [TSD Explanatory Guidance Document in English \(rev 1.4\)](#)

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TABLE 1.

ENTRY	ELEMENT	MIGRATION LIMIT (MG/KG)			EFFECTIVE DATE
		DRY, BRITTLE, POWDER-LIKE OR PLIABLE TOY MATERIAL	LIQUID OR STICKY TOY MATERIAL	SCRAPED-OFF TOY MATERIAL	
1	Aluminium	5,625	1,406	70,000	20 July 2013
2	Antimony	45	11.3	560	
3	Arsenic	3.8	0.9	47	
4	Barium	4,500	1,125	56,000	
5	Boron	1,200	300	15,000	
6	Cadmium ['old' limit]	1.3 [1.9]	0.3 [0.5]	17 [23]	
7	Chromium (III)	37.5	9.4	460	
8	Chromium (VI)	0.02	0.005	0.2	
9	Cobalt	10.5	2.6	130	
10	Copper	622.5	156	7,700	
11	Lead	13.5	3.4	160	
12	Manganese	1,200	300	15,000	
13	Mercury	7.5	1.9	94	
14	Nickel	75	18.8	930	
15	Selenium	37.5	9.4	460	
16	Strontium	4,500	1,125	56,000	
17	Tin	15,000	3,750	180,000	
18	Organic tin	0.9	0.2	12	
19	Zinc	3,750	938	46,000	

TABLE 2.

ENTRY	TOY MATERIAL	EXAMPLES
1	Dry, brittle, powder-like or pliable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compressed paint tablets</li> <li>Chalk, crayons, plaster of Paris, magic sand, modelling compounds, plasticine</li> <li>Oven hardened PVC modelling compounds, bouncing putty</li> </ul>
2	Liquid or sticky toy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bubble solutions, poster paints, finger paints</li> <li>Liquid adhesives, glue sticks, slimes</li> </ul>
3	Scraped-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface coating materials (paints, varnish)</li> <li>Polymers (Polystyrene, ABS, PVC, polypropylene (PP), rubber, EVA foam, elastomers, leatherette)</li> <li>Wood (fibreboards, chipboards, plywood)</li> <li>Textiles (fuzzy felts, cotton wool, polyester staple fibres, plush fabrics)</li> <li>Glass, ceramics (marbles, fibre glass)</li> <li>Metals and alloys (steel, nickel-silver)</li> <li>Other materials (leather, bone, natural sponge)</li> </ul>

## FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre: [gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)

HK – Hingwo Tsang Tel: +852 2774 7420 or [Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com](mailto:Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 [mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)

Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 [au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)

Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 203 00 7870 [gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto: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](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)

Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 [uscts.inquiries@sgs.com](mailto:uscts.inquiries@sgs.com)

[www.sgs.com/cts](http://www.sgs.com/cts) Global Competence Support Centre: [gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)

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