

# More toys for under 3s covered by safety standard

From 1 July 2005 the mandatory safety standard for toys for children under three will incorporate important new changes. All suppliers and manufacturers will need to make sure that the toys they supply comply with the standard.

Some of the new requirements of the revised standard cover the following:

## Small balls

Products that are small balls or that contain small balls are now covered by a separate test. The opening in the new test template is larger than the opening in the small parts test cylinder. This means that some products could pass the small parts test but not the additional test for small balls. To pass the test, balls should **not** be able to fit through the small balls template— i.e. the larger the ball, the more likely it is to pass the test.

## Pre-school play figures

This product is also now included in the mandatory standard. The standard gives a specific design description for these play figures at clause 4.5.4, providing measurements for a test template and procedure for testing.

## Pompoms

Pompoms attached to any toy that is designed for children 36 months and under will also now be caught by the mandatory standard and will need to comply with a specific test procedure.



**product  
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a mandatory standards guide



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## The standard

The mandatory standard for toys for children 36 months and under was amended by Consumer Protection Notice No. 14 of 2003, with effect from 17 December 2003. An 18-month lead time was allowed, which effectively meant that two standards were running concurrently:

- Australian Standard AS 1647.2-1992 Children's Toys (Safety requirements) Part 2: Constructional Requirements
- Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002 Safety of toys, Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties.

On 30 June 2005, AS 1647.2-1992 will cease to have effect. This means that from 1 July 2005 the mandatory standard for toys for children 36 months and under will reference only AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2002 Safety of toys, Part 1.

A further minor amendment in February 2005 now allows the exemptions referred to in clause 4.4.1 of the standard. These exemptions are similar to those in AS 1647-1992, with the exception of fibre filled toys that will now be required to comply with the relevant test.

As the mandatory standard has now been extended to include other areas apart from the small parts requirements, suppliers need to be aware of the new requirements to ensure they comply with the standard.

**Manufacturers** should ensure they have the relevant standard and, if necessary, have sample testing done on their goods.

**Importers and distributors** should stipulate that the goods they order comply with the standard and, if necessary, have sample testing done.

**Retailers** should stipulate to their suppliers that the goods they order comply with the mandatory standard. They should also make visual checks on delivery of goods. Because the mandatory standard has been changed, it would be timely for retailers to check with their suppliers about compliance.

For further inquiries or to request a copy of the relevant consumer protection notices, please contact ACCC Infocentre:

infoline: 1300 302 502

website: [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)



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