

## **AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER LAW (WA)**

### **INTERIM BAN NOTICE: –SMALL HIGH POWERED MAGNETS**

I, Simon O'Brien, Minister for Commerce being a responsible Minister within the meaning of subsection 109 (1)(a) of the *Australian Consumer Law (WA)* (ACL (WA)) **IMPOSE** an interim ban on consumer goods of a particular kind specified in "Particulars of Consumer Goods" below.

This ban starts on **23 August 2012** and continues in force for the ban period of 60 days after the start day.

#### **Particulars of Consumer Goods**

Small, separable or loose, permanent magnetic objects:

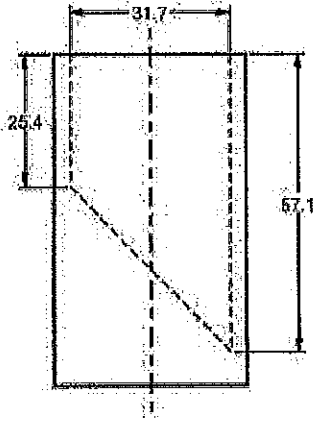
- (a) that are supplied as aggregated masses or in multiples of two or more; and
- (b) that are intended or marketed by the manufacturer primarily as a manipulative or construction desk toy or as jewellery ; and
- (c) that have a magnetic flux index of greater than  $50 \text{ kG}^2\text{mm}^2$ ; and
- (d) where the product supplied contains more than one magnet that fits within the small parts cylinder as defined in the International Standards Organization Toy Standard (ISO 8124-1:2009, *Safety of toys*).

#### **Interpretation**

Measurement of the magnetic flux index ( $\text{KG}^2\text{mm}^2$ ) is calculated by multiplying the square of the maximum flux density ( $\text{KG}^2$ ) by the area of the pole surface of the magnet ( $\text{mm}^2$ ).

The small parts cylinder is a test apparatus taken from the Australian, International and other national toy standards (for example the International Standards Organization Toy Standard (ISO 8124-1:2009, *Safety of toys*) designed to identify parts which are small enough to pose an ingestion or inhalation hazard to children.

The test apparatus was developed on the basis of incidents of ingestion. It is well established, has been in these various standards for over 40 years (since toy standards were first developed) and is a measure well known and understood by industry. Measurements in the figure below are in mm



The ban does not apply to magnets supplied:

- as parts for manufacture into other goods or for the repair of other goods;
- for scientific research; or
- as industrial, medical or therapeutic goods.

**Hazard Identified**

Small, powerful magnets can detach and be ingested. The ingested magnets may then attract each other and clamp parts of the digestive system together resulting in death or serious injury.

**Note:** Consumer goods subject to this Notice and which fail to comply with this Notice may be subject to a compulsory recall.

Dated this *twenty third* day of *August* 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon O'Brien".

Simon O'Brien MLC  
**MINISTER FOR COMMERCE**

