

Safe and sound

Last year's major change in the toy safety directive meant an overhaul for most if not all toy companies, but with yet more changes in store, we take a look at what this means for the manufacturer and suppliers



The past year or so has been one of change for many toy companies when it comes to the issue of safety and compliance. But is this it for the moment when it comes to changes in the safety laws? Sadly not. In the very near future the industry will see changes in many different toy categories, bikes and trikes, aquatic toys to name but a few and also to different aspects of the products, composition, warnings, cords and more.

But what of the recent changes? Malcolm Horner of Bureau Veritas takes up the story: "The past 18 months have been a period of transition with new chemical requirements of the TSD that came into application in July 2013, the cost of testing has been a concern for many manufactures, especially because of the addition of the organo tin and chromium VI requirements and the amendments of Appendix C. In parallel, the list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) under REACH doesn't stop growing."

Naturally, this has meant a rise in costs to the manufacturer, but how is this managed?

Judith Russell of Eurofins says her company is diligent in its approach to testing and working a client-friendly resolution: "We work with our clients to risk assess their products so that we can reduce testing costs where possible and focus on the areas that are of particular concern to their toy."

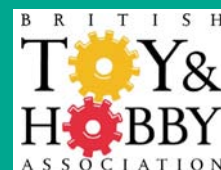
The changes that are on the horizon are wide-ranging, from changes to the acoustic clause and more updates to EN71-1, but there is also an impending change to Appendix C of Annex II which will restrict the use of Bisphenol A, TCEP, TCP and TDCP.

Judith explains in more detail: "The provisions come into effect as from 21st Dec 2015 so manufacturers have this time to assess their products and define if any need to be tested. In addition the REACH annex XVII has been amended so that toys and other consumer goods will not be able to be put on the market as from 27 Dec 2015 if they contain Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH's) above defined limits."

There are changes in some outdoor toy categories. "We are not far from the publication of the trampoline standard (EN 71-14)," says Malcolm. "In addition, the standard for electric toys (EN 62115) will be amended regarding EMF (Electro Magnetic Fields) and LED's."

With all these changes it can be hard to keep up and also to know what testing is required and when. Malcolm's advice is succinct: "The Toy Safety Directive is evolving constantly and it is important for toy companies to stay tuned with the latest changes. It is always best to check with your laboratory partner if you are unsure about the implications of those changes for your products."

What is the BTHA's role in safety?



Jerry Burnie, the Chairman of the Technical, Toy Safety committee tell us more about how the BTHA work within the industry to ensure toy safety

"The BTHA provide guidance documents, seminars, a toy safety advisory service and offer subsidised consultancy support to members. In addition we have developed a number of toolkits and information to help members assess their materials and products. This includes free subscriptions to a chemicals database called Chemtrac. We also give free access to 175 British Standards through a free BS Online subscription service.

The BTHA lobbies and works directly with UK enforcement and regulatory bodies to try and ensure regulations are fair and reflect the EU Directives. We also deal direct with the EU Commission or support the work of Toy Industries of Europe (TIE) with the Commission. Our Toy Safety Advisory service and many members also sit on the various standards development committees across the EU trying to positively influence standards development on behalf of our members."



What is Toyograph?

Toyograph®, developed by the BTHA in association with Bureau Veritas, is an interactive web based tool designed to allow manufacturers to use their Bill of Materials to

determine which materials are at risk of containing restricted substances above the limits specified in legislation or at levels that may be a safety concern. By helping to identify the restricted substances that are likely to be present within commonly used toy materials, (BTHA full) members can decide on appropriate, targeted compliance routes.

The tool aims to help mitigate increased costs likely incurred by the new chemical requirements of the TSD by helping establish a risk assessment approach. This type of approach will help give members the option to target testing to higher risk areas rather than simply increasing testing spend.



At Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services, we support a wide range of toy clients, from start-up companies to large importers, well-known brands to global retailers, with their safety, compliance and sustainability needs. Through our UK laboratory and global network, we have the scope and capabilities to support your business wherever you need.

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Bureau Veritas is a global leader in testing, inspection and certification services. Founded in 1828, the group has more than 65,000 employees in 1,330 offices and laboratories, located in 140 countries. The Bureau Veritas' Consumer Products Services Division is a leading provider of quality assurance and compliance services to the global consumer product and retail markets.

At Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services, we provide a complete solution to the toy industry from product concept to store-shelves including product safety, safety assessments, regulatory consultancy, product inspections, chemical supply chain solutions, social and factory audits. We help our clients improve their supply chain, as well as checking that their toys meet the relevant regulatory standards. We support a wide range of clients, from small toy start-up

businesses to large importers, brands and global retailers. With our extensive global network of toy laboratories, we have the capabilities to test our clients' products wherever they need to. At our fully-operational UKAS accredited laboratory in Warrington, Cheshire, we have been offering reliable service delivery, friendly customer service and recognised technical expertise for over a decade. In the UK, we offer a wide range of analytical testing, including Chromium VI, and can test for many types of toys including dress-up, trampolines, outdoor play equipment, acoustic toys, electric toys or children's cycles.

We also work closely with our clients globally to help them assess their products and manufacturing processes for chemical safety & compliance, which is one of the main challenges of the toy industry today. We have partnered with the British Toy & Hobby Association (BTHA) to develop Toyograph, an online toolkit which helps companies carry out their chemical safety assessment and assists them in defining a compliance strategy on a risk-based approach. Toyograph enables companies to use a Bill of Materials (BOM) to determine which materials are at risk of containing restricted chemicals above the limits specified in legislation or at levels that may be a safety concern.



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As a leader in the field of toy safety, Eurofins offers authoritative advice on appropriate, cost-effective testing as part of a due diligence strategy for your products. Eurofins is active in the development and revision of international safety standards, making us ideally placed to offer in-depth advice, not only on product compliance with current standards but also on future changes to the standards. This enables us to support our clients with qualified guidance regarding legislation, how to comply with the minimal cost whilst minimising time to point of sale during pre and post manufacture.

With Eurofins' background in the scientific sectors we are ideally placed to offer assistance on the chemical parts of the Directive. In the ever-evolving world of chemical legislation we partner with our clients to provide understanding of the requirements and provide cost effective testing plans. We also have specialist facilities for the microbiological testing of toys which is required for toys containing water.

Eurofins Scientific is an international group of testing laboratories which offers a unique portfolio of services dedicated to authorities, consumer organisations, and private companies of the following sectors:

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Stop by Stand B053 at BLE where UL's experts will be on hand throughout the show to offer advice on how to help ensure your licensed products comply with brand specifications as well as international safety standards and regulations such as the EU Toy Safety Directive, ASTM and REACH. To make an appointment with UL staff during the show or for more information on how UL can help mitigate supply chain risk and safeguard the reputation of your brand, please contact Matthew.Thorpe@ul.com, or contact us on the above to know more.



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Safety First

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Parents want to be assured that their children's toys are safe whether this is from physical injury or the presence of harmful chemicals. SATRA has made a significant investment in new laboratory equipment to offer testing of toys to the 2013 version of EN 71-3 and for due diligence tests. SATRA is a Notified Body for toys and can undertake an EC type-examination directly against the European Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) to assess the potential hazards of toys falling outside the EN 71 range of standards. SATRA is also an accredited third-party testing laboratory for the assessment of children's products for the United States Consumer Product



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