



WELL-INFORMED CIRCLES

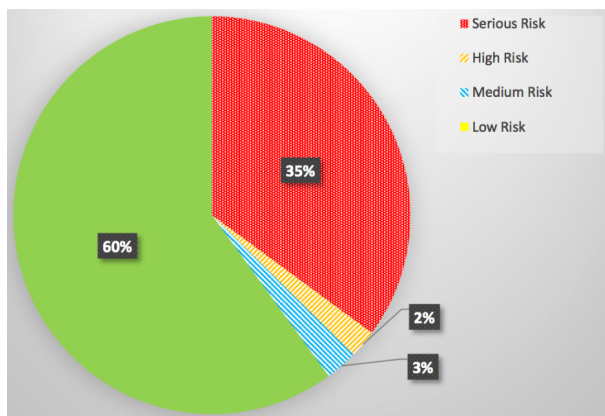
TOYS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 3 YEARS

MARKET SURVEILLANCE REPORT

The market surveillance authorities in Europe have completed the second project on the compliance of toys for very young children. Read more about the results that were published in February 2016.

Toys for very young children get much attention from market surveillance authorities because it concerns a very vulnerable group of persons. The first project on toys started already in 2008 and focussed on small parts and magnets in toys and on traces of heavy metals in toys for children under 3 years of age. The second project during 2014 and 2015 also looked into phthalates and a third project is underway focussing on acoustic toys.

RESULTS 2014-2015



The selected products were tested on mechanical aspects, chemical substances, presence of phthalates and labelling requirements:

- 46% of the samples did not comply with EN 71-1;
- 40% of the samples failed the labelling requirements;
- 23% of the samples did not have the required national language;
- 12% of the samples contained forbidden phthalates.

The good news is that **only 1%** of the samples had a serious risk concerning the migration of certain chemicals (EN 71-3).

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Small parts

Market surveillance authorities found many non-compliances and risks in the area of "small parts", this was also the result of the first project.

The requirements for toys intended for children under 36 months are listed in chapter 5 of EN 71-1. The report contains many examples of toys that do not fulfil one or more of these requirements.

- Small shaped toys, stickers that are small parts, small parts breaking of dropped toys, small parts from the filling of soft toys, loose suction cups that are small parts and more small parts that may lead to choking or suffocation.
- Long cords that may result in strangulation.



Small parts cylinder (left) and a toy with small shapes.

Warnings, markings, instructions

Warnings, markings and instructions must be present and translated because the information is very important to consumers.

Missing addresses

The majority (76%) of all samples that did not have any information about the name and address of manufacturer or importer also did not comply with the requirements of EN 71-1.

So: missing addresses are a very good indicator of non-conformities or serious risks and they are easy to detect during market surveillance. The coordination with Customs on this aspect will get more focus.

ProductIP provides information that enables the supply chain to market safe, healthy and environmentally friendly products from a sustainable source.

ProductIP B.V. Address: Copernicuslaan 30 | 6716 BM EDE | Netherlands
IBAN NL16RABO0150770359 | Chamber of Commerce 09188071
T +31 (0) 318 700 622 | expert@productip.com | www.productip.com

