

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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## Mandatory from 21 July 2008: EU Requires Warning on Toys Containing Magnets

The EU Commission has adopted a Decision (2008/329/EC) requiring warning labels for magnetic toys. The Commission uses an emergency procedure to have the requirement in place as soon as possible. The warning is mandatory from 21 July 2008.

### Accidents and incidents

Several incidents and accidents have been reported where small, strong magnets have been ingested by children. When two or more magnets are swallowed they can attract each other in the child's body and cause intestinal perforation or blockage. Surgery is needed to remove the magnets. As a reaction the EU Commission decided that as a first step consumers need to be warned about specific risk related to magnets in toys.

### Warning requirement:

Toys containing or consisting of one or more loose or detachable magnets that can be swallowed by children must carry a warning. A magnet or magnetic component can be swallowed when it fits in the small parts cylinder as specified in standard EN 71-1. The following warning or an equivalent easy understandable wording must be displayed:

*"Warning! This toy contains magnets or magnetic components. Magnets sticking together or becoming attached to a metallic object inside the human body can cause serious or fatal injury. Seek immediate medical help if magnets are swallowed or inhaled."*; (for translations in other Member States languages see below)



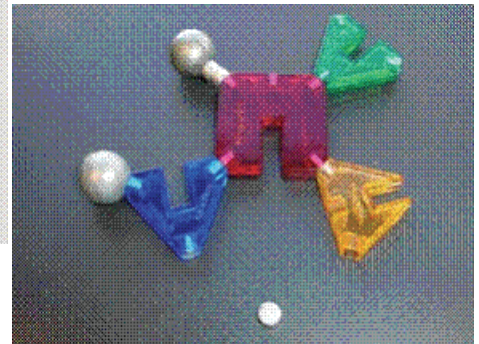
The warning label must be on the packaging or must be otherwise attached to the toy in a clearly visible and legible manner at the point of purchase.

The full text of the decision can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:114:0090:0093:EN:PDF>

The requirement applies for toys placed or made available on the EU market. This means that it applies to toys already in stock as well as for toys to be imported after 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2008.

The warning is a temporary solution to bridge the gap until the CEN (European Standardisation Committee) accepts a revision of the safety standard EN 71-1



including magnetic toys. A revised standard is expected end of 2008. Proposals for revision are under discussion. The current proposal sets requirements for the size and strength of magnets and requires warnings only in some exceptional cases.

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The warning must appear in the official languages of the Member State in which the product is placed on the market. See below translation in the different languages:

**Bulgarian**

"Внимание! Тази детска играчка съдържа магнити или магнитни части. Прилепването на магнити един към друг или към метален предмет в човешкото тяло може да причини сериозно нараняване или нараняване с фатални последици. Незабавно потърсете медицинска помощ при поглъщане или вдишване на магнити";

**Spanish**

"Atención: Este juguete contiene imanes o componentes magnéticos. La unión de los imanes entre sí o a un objeto metálico dentro del cuerpo humano puede provocar lesiones graves o mortales. Si se han tragado o inhalado los imanes, busque atención médica inmediata.";

**Czech**

"Pozor! Tato hračka obsahuje magnety nebo magnetické části. Magnety přitahující se k sobě navzájem nebo ke kovovému předmětu uvnitř lidského těla mohou způsobit vážné nebo smrtelné zranění. V případě spolknutí či vdechnutí magnetů vyhledejte okamžitou lékařskou pomoc.";

**Danish**

"Advarsel! Dette legetøj indeholder magneter eller magnetiske dele. Magneter, der hænger sammen eller fæstner sig til en metalgenstand inde i den menneskelige krop, kan forårsage alvorlig eller dødbringende skade. Søg øjeblikkelig lægehjælp, hvis magneter sluges eller kommer i luftvejene."

**German**

"Warnung! Dieses Spielzeug enthält Magnete oder magnetische Bestandteile. Magnete, die im menschlichen Körper einander oder einen metallischen Gegenstand anziehen, können schwere oder tödliche Verletzungen verursachen. Ziehen Sie sofort einen Arzt zu Rate, wenn Magnete verschluckt oder eingeatmet wurden."

**Estonian**

"Ettevaatus! See mänguasi sisaldab magneteid või magnetosi. Vastastikku või metalleseme külge tõmbuvad magnetid võivad inimkehas põhjustada tõsiseid või surmavaid vigastusi. Magnetite allaneelamisel või nende sattumisel hingamisteedesse pöörduge koheselt arsti poole.";

**Greek**

"Προσοχή! Το παιχνίδι αυτό περιέχει μαγνήτες ή μαγνητικά εξαρτήματα. Οι μαγνήτες, αν προσκολληθούν μεταξύ τους ή με μεταλλικό αντικείμενο μέσα στο ανθρώπινο σώμα, μπορούν να προκαλέσουν σοβαρό ή θανατηφόρο τραυματισμό. Σε περίπτωση κατάποσης ή εισπνοής μαγνητών, πρέπει να ζητήσετε αμέσως ιατρική βοήθεια!"

**English**

"Warning! This toy contains magnets or magnetic components. Magnets sticking together or becoming attached to a metallic object inside the human body can cause serious or fatal injury. Seek immediate medical help if magnets are swallowed or inhaled.";

**French**

"Attention! Ce jouet contient des aimants ou des composants magnétiques. Des aimants collés les uns aux autres ou à un objet métallique à l'intérieur du corps humain peuvent entraîner des lésions graves ou mortelles. En cas d'ingestion ou d'inhalation d'aimants, demandez immédiatement une assistance médicale.";

**Italian**

"Avvertenza! Questo oggetto contiene magneti o componenti magnetici. Un magnete che si attacca a un altro magnete o a un oggetto metallico all'interno del corpo umano può provocare lesioni gravi o mortali. In caso di ingestione o inalazione di magneti, richiedere immediatamente assistenza medica.";

**Latvian**

"Brīdinājums! Rotājlieta satur magnētus vai magnētiskas detaļas. Magnēti, kas cilvēka ķermenī savstarpēji pievelkas vai savienojas ar metālisku priekšmetu, var izraisīt nopietnu vai nāvējošu ievainojumu. Ja magnēti tiek norīti vai ieelpoti, nekavējoties meklējiet medicīnisko palīdzību.";

**Lithuanian**

spėjimas! Šiame žaisle yra magnetų ar magnetinių sudedamųjų dalių. Į žmogaus kūną patekę magnetai pritraukia vienas kitą arba prisitvirtina prie metalinio daikto, todėl gali sukelti sunkius ar mirtinus sužalojimus. Prarijus magnetus arba magnetams patekus į kvėpavimo takus, nedelsiant kreipkitės medicininės pagalbos.";

**Hungarian**

"Figyelem! Ez a játék mágneset vagy mágneses alkatrészt tartalmaz. Az emberi test belsejében az egymáshoz vagy más fémtárgyhoz tapadó mágnesek súlyos vagy halálos sérülést okozhatnak. Azonnal kérjen orvosi segítségget a mágnes lenyelése vagy belélegzése esetén!";

**Maltese**

Avviż! Dan il-ġugarell jinkludi kalamiti u komponenti manjetiči. Kalamiti mwaħħlin flimkien jew li jeħlu ma' oġġett metalliku fil-ġisem uman jistgħu jikkawżaw inċidenti serji jew fatali. Jekk il-kalamiti jinbelgħu jew jittieħdu min-nifs itlob għajjnuna medika minnufih.";

**Dutch**

"Opgelet! Dit speelgoed bevat magneten of magnetische onderdelen. Magneten die in het menselijk lichaam aan elkaar of aan een metalen voorwerp hechten, kunnen een ernstig of dodelijk letsel veroorzaken. Raadpleeg onmiddellijk een arts indien magneten worden ingeslikt of ingeademd.";

**Polish**

"Uwaga! Zabawka zawiera magnesy lub części magnetyczne. Magnesy przyciągnięte do siebie lub przywierające do przedmiotu metalowego w organizmie człowieka mogą być przyczyną poważnych, a nawet śmiertelnych obrażeń. W przypadku połknięcia magnesów lub wprowadzenia ich do dróg oddechowych należy natychmiast zwrócić się o pomoc lekarską.";

**Romanian**

"Atenție! Această jucărie conține magneți sau componente magnetice. Magneții care se lipesc unul de celălalt sau se atașează de un obiect metalic în interiorul corpului uman pot provoca accidente grave sau mortale. Cereți imediat asistență medicală în cazul în care magneții sunt înghițiți sau inhalați.";

**Slovak**

"Pozor! Táto hračka obsahuje magnety alebo magnetické súčiastky. Magnety, ktoré držia spolu alebo ktoré sa pripoja ku kovovému predmetu vnútri ľudského tela, môžu spôsobiť vážne alebo smrteľné zranenie. V prípade prehltnutia alebo vdýchnutia magnetov okamžite vyhľadajte lekársku pomoc.";

**Slovenian**

"Opozorilo! Ta igrača vsebuje magnete ali magnetne sestavne dele. Magneti, ki se združijo ali pripnejo na kovinski predmet v notranjosti človeškega telesa, lahko povzročijo resno ali smrtno poškodbo. Če ste pogoltnili ali vdihnili magnete, takoj poiščite zdravniško pomoč.";

**Finnish**

"Varoitus! Tämä lelu sisältää magneetteja tai magneettiosia. Ihmiskehossa toisiinsa tarttuvat tai metalliesineeseen kiinnittyvät magneetit voivat johtaa vakaviin vammoihin tai hengenvaaraan. Hakeudu välittömästi lääkäriin, jos magneetteja on nieltä tai niitä on joutunut hengitysteihin.";

**Swedish**

"Varning! Denna leksak innehåller magneter eller magnetiska delar. Magneter som fastnar vid varandra eller vid ett metallföremål inuti kroppen kan orsaka allvarliga skador och dödsfall. Uppsök omedelbart läkare om någon har svalt eller andats in magneter."

SGS can offer a wide range of services for magnetic toys, such as ASTM F963-07 magnet testing, magnetic flux measurements, design feasibility review, test-to-failure and use/reliability testing.

SGS is also highly involved in leading the CEN task group on hazardous magnets in toys.

Please contact us if you need further information.

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