

Four Plastics Exempted from CPSIA Third Party Testing of Phthalates

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking exempting four plastics from phthalates testing under the CPSIA was approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) on 9 August 2016.

The decision came following a research conducted by the Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) and other similar researches by the CPSC on the presence of eleven phthalates in four plastics used in children’s toys and child care articles. Once the rule has been approved, manufacturers shall not be required to conduct third-party testing in assuring compliance with the phthalate prohibitions for these four plastics. These four exempted plastics are:

- Polypropylene (PP)
- Polyethylene (PE)
- High Impact Polystyrene (HIPS)
- Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS)

However, products made from the above plastics must continue to comply with Section 108 of CPSIA in which the “accessible plasticized component parts and other component parts made of materials that may contain phthalates” shall not contain any of the prohibited phthalates in concentration greater than 0.1% in children’s toys and child care articles. The six prohibited phthalates are:

CPSIA Section 108	Phthalates	Limit
Permanent ban for use in children’s toys or child care articles	DEHP: di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	0.1%
	DBP: dibutyl phthalate	0.1%
	BBP: benzyl butyl phthalate	0.1%
Interim ban for use in toys that can be put in the mouth or child care articles	DINP: diisononyl phthalate	0.1%
	DIDP: diisodecyl phthalate	0.1%
	DnOP: di-n-octyl phthalate	0.1%

Phthalates are generally used as plasticizers or softener of certain plastics. It is commonly used in polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyurethane (PU) and rubber.

Plastic toys and child care products manufacturers are recommended to maintain product testing through a CPSC approved lab or any competent test lab based on a reasonable test program for safety compliance. STC (the Hong Kong Standards & Testing Centre) is an independent third party testing laboratory accredited by CPSC, with over 50 years of experience in product conformity testing service. We provide on-time and up-to-date testing service to clients according to the test requirements of CPSIA.

For more information, please contact our Toys and Children’s Products Division at

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