

Project: Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans -
civil society cooperation on the EU acquis and values
for consumer and corporate responsibility

TOY SAFETY

IN SERBIA

TOY SAFETY IN SERBIA

The hard copy version of inventory has been realized within the project Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans - civil society cooperation on the EU acquis and values for consumer and corporate responsibility

Abbreviations:

EU - European Union

Community-European Union

OJEU - Official Journal of the EU

2009/48/EC - Directive on Toy Safety

SME - Small and Medium Enterprises

I / PHI - Institutes / Institutes of Public Health in Serbia (23).

The institutions engaged in preventing disease and promoting health through social and medical organization, epidemiological and microbiological activity.

CEN - European Committee for Standardization

ASTM - American Society for Testing and Materials

CPSC - U.S. Consumer Safety Commission Product

FDA - U.S. Food and Drug Administration

JPMA - Juvenile Products

SFRY - Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

EN71 - European Standard for the safety of children's

toys are contained in the standards:

Standards EN 71:1-11

DEHP-di (ethylhexyl) phthalate

BBP - Butyl benzyl phthalate

DBP - Di-n-butyl phthalate

DINP - Di-Iso-Nonyl phthalate

DIDP - Di-isodecyl phthalate

DNOP - Di - n octal phthalate

CE marking - an abbreviation of Conformité Européenne, which is a statement that the toy manufacturer meets all the necessary safety requirements. Unlike quality standards,

CE marking is mandatory and applies to the safety of using your product.

EEA - European Economic Area

EC - European Legislation

EC - European Commission

RAPEX - The EU's rapid alert system for all dangerous consumer products, with the exception of food, pharmaceutical and medical devices.

The European Union has developed rapid alert system (RAPEX)

which includes manufacturers, retailers, distributors, consumers,

and, of course, the authorities, which aims to market as soon as possible to withdraw products that can harm the health and safety of consumers

CEN - European Committee for Standardization

PVC - Plastics polyvinyl chloride

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

The study is the result of the project called “Chemical products and security in the Balkans - the cooperation of civil society on the ‘acquis communautaire, the value of consumer and corporate responsibility” (Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans - civil society cooperation on the EU acquis and values for consumer and corporate responsibility). Many manufacturers now produce toys that contain dangerous chemicals. In the Balkans, many are not aware of this, and there is not enough legislation or it is inadequately enforced. This project identifies the needs of consumers, politics and economics in this area and is an example of good practice that will improve health and the environment.

At EU level there is a law on consumer protection, product and chemical safety, and all products imported from countries outside the EU must comply with these regulations. For many consumers, producers, and the legislation of these countries, these regulations are difficult to understand, but at the same time, are part of the acquis which new and potential members must adhere.

On the other hand, the chemical product safety is of utmost importance to consumers, for unsafe products can cause serious health problems and even death. Children are more sensitive to exposure to hazardous substances and unsafe products, and since women are usually responsible for the health care of their families, they are particularly important in this area.

This project deals with the problem of lack of knowledge among consumers, producers and decision makers on the EU acquis in the field of chemical safety products. By identifying best practices, the project will contribute to increase consumer protection, and improving dialogue between producers, consumers and decision makers. Toys and games are vital to child development. Manufacturers are responsible for the safety of their products, and importers, the authorized bodies and national authorities have a role in exporting toys to the EU ensure fulfillment of all safety requirements.

The EU has about 80 million children under the age of 14 years, and about 2000 companies, mainly SMEs, employing directly over 100 000 people in the toy sector. Toys have historically proven to be very important to human

life, like guns and hunting, fire and dishes, clothing and housing. It can be said that the toys are as old as mankind itself, and that they accompany us throughout life. Safety of toys for children's health is necessary - toys are sharp edges rounded, avoiding the use of small parts and the wooden parts to reflect the safe vegetable colors or simply left unpainted allowing children to bite them without any risk. However, with the development of chemical industry and application of new synthetic materials rather than natural, the situation began to change radically. As a result, there was a problem of ecological safety of children. To provide security at the new official standards is a very important step in bringing the latest trends in toy safety and are of vital importance especially in the application of new materials and introducing new production processes that need to be constantly developed.

EU internal market has positively contributed to the development of sector and consumer protection in the sphere of security and compliance features of toys.

The new directives on the safety of toys have increased demands on the safety of toys in order to ensure the highest level of protection for children. These directives can also improve the existing rules related to advertising producers, and imports into the EU in order to reduce the number of accidents caused by toys and achieve long-term health benefits and safety. Today, Europe's most important trading partners in the field of toys are U.S. for export and Far East to import. One of the major opportunities for European toy industry is export potential of high-quality European products which European Commission supports through improvement of market access in other countries.

The game is requirement of every child, and for this they need a variety of toys (children will themselves choose what they need). The game is a "mirror" in which it reflects what the child thinks, feels the experiences, desires. Remember how angry you are when you are interrupted in your work. Child is also angry if you interrupt her/his game, because the game is the most important job for your child!

EU Directive on Toy Safety (2009/48/EC) was published in "Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on June 30th 2009. This new Directive imposes new responsibilities to manufacturers, importers and retailers of toys intended for sale in the European market. The new measures are implemented from July 2011 and it is critical that companies understand their obligations and act accordingly, if they want to protect their business.

According to Article 18 the new Toy Safety Directive "manufacturers should, before putting toys on the market, carry out a security assessment based on the analysis of chemical, physical, mechanical, electrical, flammable, radioactive parameters gaming hazardous to the health of children, potential exposure to them." Part of the Directive regulating the use of chemicals in toys shall enter into force on July 20th 2013 and until then manufacturers can operate in accordance with the preceding, but also to begin synchronization.

2. TOY SAFETY PROBLEMS IN SERBIA

Children's toy market is one of the most active emerging markets in the global and national levels. Toy chemical safety should be a priority at national and local level. Unfortunately, the actual situation is quite different. One of the biggest problems in modern toys is the application of new synthetic materials instead of natural.

Toy Safety problems are:

1. Manufacturers are usually only interested in profits and often attempt to reveal only some toxic substances;
2. Manufacturers and sellers use legal loopholes, lack of some quality standards and false advertising that flood the market with products of "suspicious" quality.
3. Sales of toys and other products in small buildings of Chinese and other producers in countries in transition. Either the producers themselves or their distributors do not have enough knowledge and skilled personnel, necessary to ensure the safety of toys produced.
4. Lack of regular and thorough quality control of toys that are sold through exchange. In many cases, the national supervisory authorities rely on the documentation of the importer.
5. Expert assessment of toys takes place only at the request of manufacturers, sellers and / or consumers.
6. Toys are mostly imported in small batches of different distribution companies which often manage to avoid the certification procedure.
7. Low level of knowledge among people about the potential risks to children's health.

Border Sanitary Inspection grants import licenses for toys, only after the samples undergo analysis in institutes and institutes of public health in Serbia, but also in some other authorized institutions. This is the case when it comes to goods from abroad. Similar chemical analyses of imported toys and of those of domestic producers are done in laboratories authorized by the Ministry of Health. The biggest danger is that the toys that have been withdrawn from sale in EU countries can often be found in markets where the control can be avoided, therefore in Serbia as well. Such goods usually

don't have a declaration. By purchasing goods that have declaration and at safe places we are taking care of ours and the health of our loved ones. By purchasing inadequate goods we are responsible for the consequences.

Toy safety is under the jurisdiction of the Law on health safety in Serbia, in which the articles 85th and 86th state: "Toys for infants can be made only from materials that can be disinfected or boiled, without changing the quality. These toys must be designed so that children cannot swallow them and put into the nose or ear. Toys for infants should not be less than seven inches, and if they are composed of multiple components which can be easily dismantled, their smallest part may not be shorter than seven inches. In terms of construction, toys must meet the following requirements: not to be pointed, or have sharp and jagged edges that can hurt babies or small children. To be polished or coated with varnish or lacquer colors (wooden toys and wooden toy parts), the electrical voltage in the toys that are powered with electric energy does not exceed 24 V. Children's toys must not be colored with pigments based on cadmium, mercury, selenium, lead, arsenic and chromate."

The aim of this study is to help consumers be informed what they need to know when buying toys for children. On the other hand, decision makers need to meet the appropriate requirements for the labeling of toys, but information campaign for all stakeholders should be continued with more information and knowledge about the dangers of toxic chemicals in toys. Also, it is necessary to start lobbying the government and manufacturers to replace toxic chemicals in toys and prohibit the production and import of dangerous toys.

Safety and quality are the primary concern for consumers, especially for parents who buy toys and other products related to children. At the same time, domestic and international standard regulations are intended to provide greater safety for children and become more demanding, including:

- European Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of toys
- The European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

- The U.S. Commission on Consumer Product Safety (CPSC)
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- The Juvenile Products Manufacturers Doc. (JPMA)
- Other international standards and regulations, such as those in Asia, Australia, Latin America and Japan.

3. TOYS THROUGH HISTORY

Today the term is used toys from the mid-16th century, and one of the first constructors is considered to be Rene Descartes, who developed a mechanical figure of a young girl, to reflect his own understanding of “people as sophisticated machines.” Research on the development of toys soon showed that toys are rarely mentioned in the historical reviews, as well as comparative studies of different cultures. This does not mean that there weren't things that were used to be played with. English sociologist Bryon Sutton Smith claims that since the earliest times, in tribes dolls were made for girls and bow and arrow for boys. Children were playing in mud, twigs and stones and made replicas of houses and cattle. Reflection of the original understanding of the game is visible today: with so many action heroes and video games, many kids still prefer to play - in the sand and mud. The beginning of toy use sociologists explain with social character – it was a part of education adults conducted in communication with children. The overwhelming nature of the game in history was to play with others, not toys. Although today's kids would rather play with their peers, they are often forced to spend most of their time playing alone. The wealthier parents are, it is more common that, with expensive toys, the child remains in safe home, instead of hanging out on the streets unsafe. Also, today's children more often only children, or a generation gap between brothers and sisters is bigger because of a different family planning, and they and the gameplay is much different than the children of earlier generations.

Education of John Locke

What we know about the toys of that period is usually related to adult and for religious ceremonies, although there are some evidence that, at least on some occasions, sacred objects used were later given away to children to play them. For example, a small wooden carved figure, which is the God of the Old Man of South American-Indian tribes Cadaveo, children are able to use as a toy. Or dragon mask, hopscotch or mange, also representing the part of religious rites, that children sometimes practiced as a game. Inventing things that serve the sole purpose of playing wasn't “in fashion” or toys were not perceived as an essential part of growing up and education in the community.

Only gradually in the 17th and then more fully in the 18th century, some educationists are beginning to recognize the children's play and toys as a suitable tool for education. By this time the term "toy" is used to indicate the item of no greater value - it was not so much related to children, how much for cheap items or trifles. The modern word "toy" has kept some of the traditional overtones of irrelevance and triviality. Englishman John Locke is generally credited with the idea that toys are not mere trifles, and that they should be given to children to entertain, and educate. Locke is credited with the popularization of the cube print, which became known as "Locke's dice" and was used for literacy. Locke's part of the deal was driven to separate the children from the street, because it was thought to be the place of vice and brutality.

The development of the concept of today's toys starts between the 1550th and 1750th, when the new concept of industrial machinery began to change the landscape of the world. Although there is evidence that mobile machines were used as a circus attraction for entertainment of elite since the year of 1400, only since the 18th century begins production of the first toys. These ingenious "inventions" that have entertained the children and the elderly were: moving honking ducks, bleating sheep, barking dogs, a variety of figures playing musical instruments, tiny birds that sing and jump from the snuff-box, miniature scenes in which the village artisans run, dolls that are calling for mother.

The game is a creative activity that arises from the internal needs of the child. It is different every time and unrepeatable. The game is the activity through which the child expresses and confirms. It allows the child to develop harmoniously.

Through play the child meets:

// Its environment

// World of people and their relationships (examining, imagining, "as if", "if")

Through play your child resolves:

// Conflicts

// Its fears, problems

Through play a child expresses:

// Everything in real life she/he is not allowed (angry with other children, adults, crying, aggression expressed with objects)

In the game the child is relieved of tension, it becomes calm, relaxed, because almost everything in the game is allowed.

Through play children acquire self-confidence:

// doing what she/he wants

// Controls the situation

// assume the role that adults play in real life

The priority direction should be the creation of games and toys which activate a common activity of children with adults and peers, using natural materials: wood, clay, stones and cones, pieces of cloth and fur, wool yarn and cardboard, etc. In any case, today it is necessary to actively solve the problem in the interests of the future that we create with our own hands or might buy it in a store at a very affordable price.

4. TOYS IN SERBIA

In Serbia for a long, scrap of goods is imported from the Eastern and European countries. What a tragedy and devastating for us is that we have become landfill of Europe and the Far East. All these goods have found foothold in Serbia because there is no law enforcement on general product safety. Completely incomprehensible.

Why are the relevant institutions such as market inspector and Ministry of Health completely inert?

The Institute of Public Health of Vojvodina checked about 150 different toys, from teddy bears to make up for girls. About 80 percent of toys tested were correct. In 2009 in IPH's in Serbia the 374 imported toys were tested and 10.43% of this number does not correspond to the Regulations, 9.2% has irregularities of organoleptic nature and contain 0.62% of lead. 268 toys of domestic production were examined of which 14.55% does not correspond to the current Regulations. Following the period since 2005 the irregularity of toys is ranging from 4.69% - 25%. Regarding the control of imported toys, irregularities decline since 2005, 757 samples were controlled and the percentage of failure is 9.20% up to 1775 samples in 2008 and 18.76% of defective samples. Most of the defects is in the organoleptic properties of 9, 5% of samples. The presence of cadmium in 2008 is 0.22%, the presence of lead ranging from 0.54% in 2005 to 1.85% in 2006. In Leskovac PHI in the period of 2006 until 2010 there was a decrease in the number of respondents and their control toys. In 2007 there were 75 toys tested of which 6.66% is broken, the reasons for failure: pulling out hair, hair of the doll, the material is entirely consistent with a teddy bear. In 2008, 18.52% of 54 toys are broken, and the reason for failure: pulling hair in gaming mouse, tiger, dog, duck, monkey, and the volatility of material and color of hair, made in China. As regards the Republic of Serbia, there is still no single registry or database of all the toys that are subject to control, and that manufacturers are obliged to follow from the production to sales. In I / PHI or some private agencies the controls are sporadic.

Upon the arrival of the importer of toys to the border crossing, a sanitary inspector is obliged to grant import licenses for toys only after the positive analysis in Leskovac PHI or other authorized institution. Inspector writes the report for inspection and testing toys for safety by the health state or private laboratories. The application defines exactly what is required - the analysis and the parameters. The toy comes with a request to the laboratory PHI Leskovac, where professional staff conducts the required analysis and submits results of hygiene specialists who provides final review and evaluation of a sample of health safety according to current safety regulations. The report is sent to the sanitary inspector, who will decide whether to send the contingent to the market or to return it to the country it came from. This is the case with goods from abroad. Similar chemical analyses of imported toys, as well as domestic products are conducted by other laboratories that are authorized by the Ministry of Health.

Children's toys can be made only from materials that meet the following requirements:

- // it does not contain ingredients harmful to health
- // it is completely clean - no mechanical contamination;
- // that hygiene can be maintained (washed).

It is forbidden to make toys out of the material that was used. The hairs on children's toys and hair must not fall off when shaking, combing, drawing or in any other proceedings.

What is the problem? Many toys contain synthetic substances that are known to be hazardous to the health of children. These include plastic toys, which can disrupt the hormone system, formaldehyde used in glued wooden puzzles that can cause cancer, or fluffy fur bears that can be toxic to development. Independent tests have confirmed that almost all of these dangerous chemicals can be replaced with safer alternatives. Chinese toys are still the worst ones. All customers may experience Chinese toys with a smell that often comes from chemicals that are not allowed. Our rules say that plastic cannot have smell. This year's analysis showed that toys had no lead and cadmium. However, toys are treated with plastic softeners some of which are not allowed and that our legislation does not yet recognize.

Via media, we often have the opportunity to hear about dangerous toys, but no information about the serious consequences that they may have on our children. Here is a brief overview of the impact that certain substances can have on your child.

// Phthalates (a substance that softens the plastic, can be found on soft toys made of PVC or vinyl): these substances affect the hormonal system of people of all ages, especially children in developing countries. This can lead to infertility, and affect the work of other hormones, such as those that regulate the thyroid gland.

// Lead: can lead to neurological disorders in developing countries.

// Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons: carcinogenic effect of this matter, changes affecting the genetic material is passed on to future generations, and reduces fertility. They can be found mostly in toys made of rubber or elastomer.

We believe that most of you reading these lines, thought of your children or your nieces and grandchildren. The reasons are justified because the statistical calculations show that to their sixth year of age, child was playing near 15,000 hours. We suggest a few tips on how to avoid the possibility of meeting your child with these dangerous substances. Avoid products made of plastic, vinyl and PVC. Be careful if you are buying jewelry for children, because these are products that often contain a large amount of lead. If you are buying wooden products, be sure to be sanded. Instead of artificial materials, turn to wool, cotton, natural latex. Rather than help the baby grow teeth with plastic toys for chewing, offer him a cotton cloth. These and many other useful tips can be found at: www.healthystuff.org/departments/toys/product.using.php. Here you will find information on the hazards of over 8000 toys.

Manufacturers of toys in Serbia:

Pertini Toys Panda Plast toys Per Perego YU Favorit, Ruma wooden horse, Smederevo Apple Baby, Jamax - Cacak Eco Park - children's playgrounds and accessories All for house - toys for children Labyrinth Dida M-plast A & G Polyart - Art plastic cubes for Participation - wooden toys, Novi Sad Eki &

Adi, Novi Pazar M-Toys, Smederevo Elit Shop - toys and school supplies.

Warnings and precautions

CE: Mandatory for each toy. It is a statement of the manufacturer who confirms the holding of all EU directives related to this product. But the little we can rely, as confirmed by the test of toys.

Mark "0 - 3" indicates that children under three years of age should not play with these toys.

GS mark: It stands for a "proven safety". This symbol does not represent an obligation for producers. It is put on a toy if its safety is proven in an independent institute verified by checking and testing. It is important to note that this mark must be renewed regularly.

Once a week the European Commission publishes a list of dangerous products. Toys are regularly listed in RAPEX system (rapid exchange of information on unsafe products in the countries of EU) among the products that are, due to the hazardous properties, withdrawn from the market of the European Union.

In Serbia, toys are often sold without markings stating that the product is non-toxic and there is no age limit warning for toy usage. Chinese toys are very cheap and available, skillful copies of originals of expensive manufacturers. From time to time, there is news that some toys are withdrawn from the market and then again, they are sold in the stores.

In addition to imports of goods of dubious quality on Serbian market, there is no compensation for any damage or poisoning. So, there is no one who can be asked for accountability, but only to raise a private prosecution.

Institutions in Serbia regularly receive information from RAPEX and should withdraw these products from the market. Toys make 70 to 80 % of all revoked products in Europe. In Serbia, legally a single consignment of children's toys cannot enter until their safety is verified. It is true that our

regulations have not changed a long time, but our laboratories respect all EU directives regarding the composition of the harmful substances that may be found in toys. The new law is currently in parliamentary procedure and is fully compliant with the EU standards and guidelines and one part relates to the safety of toys. Of particular concern is a fact that we do not have a uniform system of control and formed database of all harmful products that are not allowed on the market. Many private and public institutions do their work and in the end you do not have a single database.

Unlike the European countries that are trying with rigorous inspections and quality checks to reduce the huge import of toxic toys, in Serbia it is almost impossible.

Although the Customs point out that their job is to determine whether imported goods has all the necessary paperwork, such as those on health and sanitary safety, and whether the administration is adequate, most of the toys on the market comes through illegal channels. In Belgrade Block 70, the popular "Chinese shopping mall", the team of one daily newspapers found not only forbidden foam puzzles and wax crayons that are full of lead, but also a huge number of other toys that do not meet minimum standards. Unlike European countries where 83 different articles of renown American company "Fisher-Pryce" have been withdrawn from the market with suspicion that they have too much lead in colour, most local stores in Serbia still have a huge number of toys from this dealer.

The "Fisher-Pryce" points out that children are at risk only if the paint comes off with toys and that a small amount of lead can be found in toys due to production. Lead paint can be linked to health problems of children such as learning disabilities and permanent brain damage. Carelessness of parents when purchasing toys is actually playing with children's health. If the toys do not have a declaration that must contain information on manufacturer, quality and composition, we should not buy them because chances are they are harmful to health. In Serbia, since November 2007 until January 2008 half a million toys were withdrawn from sale and it seems that every second toy practically does not match any acceptable standards.

A brief report of the market inspectors and sanitary inspection is as follows: half a million toys that were not properly declared and were withdrawn from sale. Permanently 1765 toys were revoked. It was found that on 149 points of sale toys do not have a decision on safety.

Traffic and quality of toys is controlled on the territory of Serbia. Inspectors had a peek in stores specialized only for toys, those that have toys among other goods but in "China shops" as well.

Toys are not controlled by chance. The action was followed by the information that our stores have a large number of poor quality toys that affect the safety and health of consumers, especially children. End of year is usually a period for mass-buying of these products as New Year's and Christmas gifts. Early last year, during regular check-ups, it was clear that there is a problem with the correctness of the declarations and medical safety of toys.

During the campaign Inspection found that a large number of toys is sold without safety declaration in the Department for sanitary control of the Ministry of Health. In Zrenjanin, such toys are found in as many as 29 stores. In Novi Sad, unsafe toys were in the 28 points of sale in Subotica - 13, in Jagodina and Belgrade - 11, 10 in Sombor, in Bor - 9 in Pancevo in 8 stores. But non-safe toys can be found in Sabac, Smederevo, Leskovac, Uzice, Cacak, Kraljevo, Zajecar, Sremska Mitrovica and Pozarevac as well. Inspectors found in 149 outlets toys without certificate of health safety. Sanitary inspection immediately went to the store and temporarily put out of traffic all the toys which have been found without the approval of imports, which is also a confirmation that they are medically correct. Seller has been given a deadline to obtain a certificate from the importer, and if this fails, permanently prohibiting their sale.

Because of outdated records keeping (input-output of goods), 482,136 pieces of toys were temporarily seized, in total value of 12,029,476 dinars. Upon withdrawal of these toys requests have been submitted for initiation of infringement procedures. In addition, it was found that the toys on the market

have no documents on procurement.

These toys are taken away, because they are completely illegal trafficked. By far the largest number of toys was placed out of traffic in Pancevo - even 479,122 pieces, in the famous flea market Pancevo where inspection has been trying to introduce some kind of order. Pancevo takes first place in the number of the seized toys - 477,563 pieces, and of those that are permanently confiscated (957 pieces). In Subotica, Uzice, Nis and Belgrade and Prokuplje inspectors temporarily closed nine stores due to the lack of documentation on procurement of large quantities of toys.

8 fines were charged in the amount of 180,000 dinars because the price of toys in the sale was not clearly marked. 31 applications were filed for economic offense and 149 requests for initiation of infringement proceedings. The penalties for economic offenses range from 300,000 dinars to three million dinars.

Toy Manufacturers usually invest in marketing and new production, but not in the research of the impact they have on children. The quality of everyday objects that pass through the hands of boys and girls is responsibility of sanitary inspection, but almost no one does not deal with the impact of "bad" toys have on kids.

"Friends of Children of Serbia" is the only in Serbia that is organizing an action called "Good Toys", and in their competition manufacturers and importers whose products meet the pedagogical and psychological, technological, health and hygiene and cosmetic conditions can participate. Manufacturers are not interested in participating in these competitions and if they don't get a one-year mark that they were a good toy, next time they don't even try. This organization has no way to force manufacturers to apply for evaluating the quality of their products. The toy is not simply a game object, it has many meanings - on who gave it, how to use is, and what is its role in the life of a child. The connection status of children and requirements adults have in relation to him, break through the toy. Experts point out that the toy can sometimes be a companion in loneliness, and sometimes a great source of exploration and discovery. Toys have their

place in the family, science, technology, market, economics, marketing, and education. They convey many messages that are sent to children, from the worst, when the toy is the subject of the contract, the exchange of milk drunk, good behavior or grades, the ambitious desire to teach a child something.

The latest research in the world show that children are less creative in playing, they have problems in communication and that they didn't learn while playing how to control their behaviour and how to respect their teammates. At least some of these issues could be avoided if children would grow with "good toys".

4.1 Security and the definition of toys

Safety of toys is the practice to ensure toy (any object that can be used to play). Toys are usually associated with children and pets. Playing with toys is training young people for their social roles. Many things are designed to serve as toys, but goods that are produced for other purposes can be used to play. For example, a child can pick up things for the household and "fly" through the air as if it's a plane. The origin of the word "toy" is unknown, but it is believed that this term was first used in 14th century.

Toys are important when it comes to growing up and learning about the world around us. The young use toys and play to discover their identity; their bodies grow, strengthen, learn cause and effect, explore relationships and practice skills that will need to have as adults. Adults use toys and play for the creation and strengthening of social bonds.

In many countries, commercial toys must be able to pass safety tests in order to sell. In the U.S., some toys must meet national standards while other toys may not have to meet defined standards of safety. In countries where standards exist, they exist in order to prevent accidents. The danger is often not due to faulty design, but it comes to the possibility of injuries, deaths and incidents. World producers of toys from time to time make such a "masterpiece" which is rather to be placed in the museum of torture devices, but on the shelves for the children.

4.2 Legislation for toy safety

Safety of children's toys in the function of safety and health of children is based on the following laws and regulations of the Republic of Serbia:

// Law on safety of food and consumer goods Fig SFRY 53/91, Fig FRY 24/94, 28/91 and 37/2002 and Gazette of RS, 101/2005 and 79/2005

// Rules on conditions related to the safety of general use products that can be traded Fig. SFRY 26/83, 61/84, 56/86, 50/86, 50/89 and 18/91,

European safety standards in children's toys are contained in the standards:

// Standards EN 71:1-11

EN 71-1: Mechanical and physical properties

EN 71-2: Properties of Flammable

EN 71-3: Migration of certain elements

EN 71-4: Sets for the chemical experiments and similar actions

EN 71-5: Toys for chemical activities not included in kits for experiments

EN 71-6: Graphical symbol for CAUTION WITH RESPECT TO AGE

EN 71-7: The colors to paint with your fingers

EN 71-8 hanging on swings, skates and similar toys for home use in indoor and outdoor

Children's toys are items that are intended, designed and manufactured for a specific child age, are used for play and education and, assuming the proper use, one for the child should not pose any danger.

Health Integrity: Testing requirements regarding mechanical and chemical properties.

Mechanical properties of toys:

// The appearance of edges, surface smoothness;

// Stability of colours and resistance to picking hair shaking;

// Electric power in toys and volume;

// Mechanical properties of materials (brittleness, flexibility, strength and

seam tape, stretching strength, type of material of ropes for pulling;
// Functionality of weapons imitation and protective equipment (type of material, blades and missiles);
// Brittleness of rattles and toys for babies that grow teeth;
// Warnings about usage and limited protection;

Chemical safety of toys:

Toys can contain and/or release substances that can adversely affect the health of children.

// Hazardous substances of inorganic origin (metals and their compounds);
// Hazardous organic substances (phthalates, softeners, monomers, solvents, preservatives and pesticides, dyestuffs and azote dyes, aromatic primary amines, flame retardants...);

Two groups of chemicals are especially dangerous for children:

1. Persistent, bio-accumulative chemicals and
2. Endocrine disruptive chemicals

The first group of persistent, bio-accumulative chemicals remains very, very long in the body and accumulates particularly in fat.

The second group of endocrine disruptive chemicals imitates, blocks or interferes with hormones in humans and animals!

These chemicals mix and take biological processes, creating a neurological and behavioral problems, defects in the development of organs and genitals. Some chemicals for the second group have properties of those from the first group. This means that they can be transmitted from mother to the fetus, i.e. newborn, and defects manifest themselves immediately or during growing up!

// Chemical materials of inorganic nature that can migrate from toys include:
lead, cadmium, zinc, chromium, nickel, arsenic, mercury, selenium, barium.
// The most common are the pigments that colour toys, pigments in the mass modeling, painting and so on.

Hazardous substances of organic character can get into the body of children in different ways, even when used in intended or planned manner, bearing in mind the normal behaviour of children, function and form of toys:

- // putting toys in their mouths,
- // ingestion,
- // contact with skin,
- // contact with eyes,
- // inhalation,

EN 71-9 deals with the risk of organic compounds in children's toys, taking into account the potential exposure and toxicological effects of substances that are considered to represent the greatest risk to health. The classification of children's toys by age and the use, place of use (indoor or outdoor), the purpose of toys (painting, modeling ...), solid toys, intended to be placed on the face, imitation jewelry.

The materials of which children's toys are usually made of:

- // polymeric materials,
- // Wood
- // paper,
- // cardboard,
- // textiles,
- // metal alloys,
- // leather;

Laboratory testing of children's toys is carried out to determine their safety. Tests are performed in accordance with the type of material a toy is made of and its purpose. The most common cause of failure of health is the release of paint in toys, migration of heavy metals, the content of phthalates in toys of polymeric materials.

Phthalates are used to soften PVC, but for other purposes as well. Two years ago, European Union has limited their use as it has been proven that they can cause chronic effects: asthma, cancer, endocrine disorders, liver and kidney damage and reproductive organs.

The use of some phthalates in children's toy production is limited in the EU. The use of DEHP, BBP i DBP in the production of children's toys is limited while restriction of use of DINP, DIDP and DNOP applies only to the production of toys that can be placed in the mouth. These limitations mean that the amount of phthalates cannot be higher than 0.1% in plastic toy part.

Colours that are used for dyeing of toys must not transit from the toys in the saliva or in acetic acid, 3% (v / v) at a temperature of 20 + for a period of 24 hours, and in terms of purity they must comply with the terms of Article 7 of this ordinance.

Children's toys must not be colored with pigments based on cadmium, mercury, selenium, lead, arsenic and chromate, or with 4-dimethyl- amino benzene. Colours that are used to paint children's toys must be firmly adhered to the substrate toys, must be odorless and may not be removed by the action of sweat and saliva, rubbing with a dry cotton swab moistened and soap solution, during the game, due to washing in hot solutions of soap water or disinfected. For production of children's metal toys lead and zinc or alloys containing more than 1% lead should not be used. To solder metal toys tin alloys containing more than 10% lead should not be used.

Children's toys of artificial masses can only be produced from polymers that meet the terms of the Rules Art. 25-36. Only heavy inflammable celluloid can be used to produce children's toys of celluloid. Rubber toys must, apart from general conditions for production and trade, meet both the requirements of this ordinance except for tires on cars-toys. For production of children's toys made of textile, textile processed with agents containing arsenic must not be used.

It is prohibited to manufacture children's toys of:

- // Textiles containing more than 0.01 g of antimony, calculated on an area of 100 cm²
- // Fabric and thread, which is surfaced with lead or mercury salts;
- // Textiles filled with debris from fabric chips or wool;

The provisions of this Article shall apply to the production of children's toy made of paper, feathers or similar material. To produce children's toys of leather or fur only leather and fur that was previously subjected to dry sterilization at a temperature of 140 ° C during 3 hours, or at a temperature of 180 ° C for a period of 1 hour can be used. It is prohibited to manufacture children's toys made of glass, porcelain, ceramic or clay.

Toys made of wax or similar material used for modeling must not contain solvents or softeners harmful to health, as well as ingredients that release colour. Pyrotechnics or rodanide of mercury must not be used for production of toys.

Examination of children's toys in terms of their safety and security of use may be done only in accredited laboratories.

Testing the safety of children's toys (as a subject of general use) may be performed by laboratories certified by Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, if they meet the requirements regarding personnel, facilities and equipment for this type of testing. Permanent control of the safety of toys is carried out, but it does not reduce the responsibility of toy manufacturers, importers and suppliers to ensure that the use of other substances will not endanger the health of the child when playing with toys as intended or predicted in a realistic manner. In addition, there should be no exposure of children to organic chemical substances from toys to the extent that might endanger their health and which are classified in other relevant regulations as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction and for which requirements are not specified in this standard.

Packaging materials used for toys are not defined within this standard's area of application if they do not form part of the toy and are not intended for playing.

- // Check certificates on the purchased children's toys;
- // Check the declaration thoroughly and compare it with the product;
- // Check and inspect the warnings regarding the use of toys;
- // Eliminate toys of "suspicious" quality and unsuitable for the intended purpose;

The existence of the certificate and the declaration of warnings does not relieve parents and educators the responsibility for the care of a child at play. Originally, Directive 88/378/EEC on the safety of toys that aligns security provisions on toys between Member States was adopted in the context of achieving the internal market. The goal of harmonization of these measures is to guarantee equal and high level of safety of toys across the EU. On June 30th 2009 the new Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) was published giving consumers confidence that toys sold in the EU meet the highest safety requirements world-wide, especially those relating to the use of chemical substances.

Directive is the set of basic safety requirements for toys that are placed on the EU territory. Technical details are very important, and are based on the organization and standardization, which means that the toy should be in accordance with basic standards and safety requirements and comply with the new Directive.

Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of June 18th 2009 on Toy Safety was adopted having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 95, at the proposal from the Commission, taking into account the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee. This Directive was adopted after more than 20 years old applied 88/378/EEC of March 3rd 1988. The aim of the new Directive is to establish an internal market in order to harmonize the level of safety of toys across the EU. The Directive sets only a basic requirement of safety in connection with the toys, including special requirements concerning safety, related to the physical and mechanical properties, flammability, chemical properties, electrical properties, hygiene and radioactivity.

Toys that are on the Community market should comply with relevant Community legislation. Economic operators should be responsible for the approval of Toy Safety, in relation to their role in the supply chain so as to ensure a high level of public interest such as health and safety, consumer protection and environmental protection. All economic operators intervening in the supply and distribution chain should take appropriate

measures to ensure that under normal and reasonably foreseeable conditions of use, toys on the market do not compromise the safety and health of children and to make available on the market only toys that are consistent with relevant Community legislation. It is necessary to ensure that toys from third countries entering the Community market comply with all applicable requirements, especially with the relevant procedures that are carried out with the producers in connection with the toys. The provision is necessary to inform the importers and to make sure that the toys in the market are in accordance with the applicable requirements and that market does not sell toys that do not meet these requirements or risk. When the toys are sent to market, importers need to point out on the toy or the packaging, name and address so they can be contacted.

Exceptions should be provided in cases where the size or nature of the toy does not allow such a possibility. It is also necessary to adopt new safety standards. In order to ensure a high level of protection of children from harm caused by chemical substances in toys, the use of hazardous substances, particularly substances that are classified as, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMR), allergic substances and certain metals, should be the subject of attention. It is therefore necessary to complete the update of provisions on chemical substances in toys in order to state that the toys are in accordance with general regulations on chemicals, in particular with Regulation (EC) no. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December 2006 "Authorization and restriction of chemicals (REACH) and establishing a European Chemicals Agency."

To protect children from the risk of hearing loss due to sound-emitting toys, with more stringent and comprehensive standards, it is necessary to limit the maximum value for impulse noise and continuous noise emitted by toys. It is therefore necessary to set new requirements for basic safety in relation to sound from such toys. In order to further promote safe conditions for use of toy it is necessary to amend the provisions on warnings which should accompany the toy. To prevent misuse of warnings, it is not appropriate to circumvent security requirements that lead to errors in specific cases. By citing a warning that the toy is unsuitable for children under 36 months, it is necessary to explicitly ensure that the warning is provided for

certain categories of toys that cannot be used if they are in conflict with the intended use.

“CE” mark indicates compliance of toys as a visible result of the whole process that includes assessment of compliance in a broader sense. CE mark is generally specified in legislation, regulation (EC) No 765/2008. The rules governing the bonding of the CE mark are in this Directive. It is vital that manufacturers and users involved in setting the “CE” mark on toys clearly understand they are stating that the toy is in compliance with all applicable requirements and the manufacturer will take full responsibility for them.

To ensure compliance with basic security requirements, it is necessary to set the appropriate conformity assessment procedures. To complete the legal obligation of the manufacturer, which aims to ensure the safety of toys, it is necessary to analyze chemical substances that can be found in some toys, as well as estimate the potential risk. Manufacturers should have a mandatory safety assessment in the technical documentation and demonstrate it to the authorized bodies of the market surveillance. Internal control of production conformity is the responsibility of the manufacturer. In cases where such harmonized standards do not exist, the toy should be submitted to third party verification for testing. The manufacturer shall provide toys to testing in cases where it is considered that the nature, design or purpose of toys is such that requires third party verification. Since it is necessary to ensure uniform high level of performance of bodies performing conformity assessment of toys across the EU, all such bodies should be required to perform their functions, at the same level and under conditions of fair competition.

Since the objective of this Directive is to ensure a high level of safety of toys in order to provide health and safety of children, it guarantees the functioning of the internal market by setting security compliance requirements for toys, with the minimum requirements for market surveillance. It cannot be sufficiently achieved by Member States, so it is better to achieve harmonization at EU level. It may adopt measures in accordance with the

principle in Article 5 of the contract. In accordance with the principle of proportional functions, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the goal.

The Directive applies to products designed or intended for use in the game to children under 14 years of age. Toys must be a cause for concern, because children's health and happiness is our primary obligation!

4.3 Marking of toys

All toys that are sold in the EU must carry a CE mark which is the manufacturer's statement that the toy meets all necessary safety requirements. Toys that have the CE mark can be found on the market in the European Economic Area (EEA).

Markings on the toys should include:

- // the unique number of toy;
- // Name and address of the manufacturer or his authorized representative;
- // a statement that "This statement complies with the applicable Directives and is issued under the full producer's responsibility";
- // objective of the declaration (including color images);
- // references to the relevant harmonized standards;
- // a statement that "the body ... (Name, number) performed (evidence of intervention) ... and who issued the certificate "(where applicable);
- // additional information such as date, location, signature producers, as well as position of the signatory.

It is important to note that the importer also must keep a copy of the manufacturer for a period of ten (10) years after the toy is placed on the market. EU member states with their regulations and other measures ensure that products placed on the market do not compromise safety, life, health or other public interests.

Products without the CE mark cannot be found on the EU market.

CE mark is a certification for exporting the following products:

- // Toys
- // Building Materials
- // A simple pressure equipment
- // Radio and telecommunication equipment
- // Medical devices
- // Machines
- // personal protective equipment
- // The satellite equipment
- // Gas appliances
- // Equipment that works with high pressure
- // Various devices
- // Non-automatic devices and equipment for measuring weight
- // Fitness equipment
- // Elevators
- // Protective equipment for explosive atmospheres
- // Measuring instruments
- // In vitro diagnostic medical devices
- // nautical equipment
- // Electrical devices
- // Steam boilers
- // Civil Explosives
- // cooling equipment

The introduction of the CE mark has made a lot easier process of export of these products from countries outside the European Union. Before it was necessary to obtain certificates for each country, while with the introduction of the CE mark it is enough to pass a required tests and certification procedures in order to have mobility of goods in all countries of the European Union. CE mark must appear on the product or, if the nature of the product does not allow, on the packaging, as well as supporting documentation. The sign must be easily visible, distinct and legible. Unless otherwise specified, the character must be a minimum size of 5 mm. The European consumer organization BEUC has joined the efforts made by the European Commission aimed at increasing the safety of children's toys.

Among other activities, BEUC offered its views on the current revision of the Directive. We believe that in order to protect the consumers, competent inspection authorities of the Republic of Serbia, especially in controlling imports of toys and toy manufacturers in Serbia will have this in mind.

Often we see the “CE mark” on some of the products we buy, but what does that really mean?

Under the slogan “CE marking makes your market in Europe” European Commission conducted an information campaign on CE marking. Signs marking the product have meant that the product is in compliance with all relevant EU legislation which gives the producer the right to advertise and sell throughout the EU. By entering the CE mark on the product, the manufacturer declares on his responsibility that the product complies with all relevant statutory provisions, particularly those which ensure the health, safety, and environmental protection. Legal and economic consequences of mismatching and abuses are so great that will deter the vast majority of legitimate businesses from non-compliance of these laws. This campaign is primarily aimed at economists, to raise awareness and understanding of the CE marking.

However, this confidence also depends on the reliability of the system on which the CE mark is based. This will boost consumer confidence and benefit producers and distributors.

It is not necessary that all products sold in the EU bear the CE mark, but only some categories (approximately 23). CE mark does not mean that the product is made in the European Economic Area (EEA), but only says that the product is evaluated before placed on the market and thus meets the legal requirements (e.g. compliance level of security). This means that the manufacturer has approved that the product complies with all relevant basics of requirements (e.g. Health and Safety) Directive is applied, or it has been reviewed by the authorized body of conformity assessment. For products

manufactured in the EU, the manufacturer's responsibility is to assess compliance, to make a technical dossier, to bring the EC declaration of compliance, also to put the CE marking to the product. The distributor must confirm the presence of both CE and required supporting documents. For products imported from third world countries, the importer must check that the manufacturer outside the EU took the necessary steps and that the documentation is available on request. CE mark makes life easier for companies and public authorities.

For European industry, marking gives companies access to the entire single market without having to acquire 27 individual approvals from governmental authorities, which have reduced the burden of compliance costs while maintaining high standards. For state agencies, makes control of each agency at a time easier when the range of goods is available on the EU market, without compromising standards.

However, strengthening the control of authorized bodies and improvement of market surveillance is improvement of reputation that will increase consumer confidence. Upon entry into force of revised internal market package for goods legislation, the role and credibility of CE marks has been strengthened.

Procedures, measures and sanctions applied to forgery/misuse of the CE marking procedures are determined by the appropriate Member State and criminal law. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, business managers can be bound by a fine and, in some circumstances, imprisonment. However, if the product is not considered an immediate safety risk, the manufacturer may be given a second chance to ensure that the product is in compliance with applicable laws, before it is obliged to remove from the market.

4.4 The introduction of the CE mark

In introducing the CE mark, the company may use its own resources or to prepare evidence by third parties (technical and other documentation) that the product is in accordance with the appropriate Directive for a specific type of product. However, since the procedure is quite complicated, companies usually choose to seek the help of consulting firms. Verification of product compliance with prescribed standards sometimes does not require the participation of the authorized body, but in most cases it is necessary. Checking is done in accordance with Council Directive 93/465/EEC, which includes 8 modules:

A - Internal production control

B - EU type test products

C - Compliance with the Directive for a particular type of product

D - Ensuring quality production

E - Providing quality products

F - Product Verification

G - Individual product verification

H - Full quality assurance

The company does not have to pass through each of these modules for each type of product. The process of verifying compliance is easier for some products (eg light bulbs) since it includes only some of the steps. Under the rules, the manufacturer must fully implement the following measures necessary:

// To ensure that the manufacturing process ensures conformity of products with the appropriate directive (quality system),

// To complete technical documentation of the design, manufacture and operation of products, the official language of the Member States,

// To draw up the EC declaration which should contain all relevant information concerning compliance with the Directive under which it is issued, information about a product, the manufacturer, its authorized representative, the certification body, and reference to standards and other normative documents.

Determination of compliance is generally applicable to the product, production process, service, quality system and environmental system. Conformity of products with technical regulations, standards and specifications of the supplier is proven with the statement, report on testing in accredited laboratories, inspection bodies report and certificate of compliance certifying body.

4.5. State Support

Given the strategic importance of the introduction of CE mark for the overall competitiveness of our economy, support of the Serbian government to enterprises that want to introduce the CE mark is not missing. Serbian Investment and Export Promotion Agency of the Republic of Serbia (SIEPA) provides financial assistance to local companies for activity testing, certification and recertification of products since 2006.

4.6. Conformity Assessment

Manufacturers can choose between two modules of conformity assessment:

1. Self-verification - the manufacturer applies the harmonized standards and describes the means to ensure conformity of production. The manufacturer determines the technical documentation and EC declaration of conformity (2009/48/EC). Then, he puts the CE mark, name and address, as well as identification element of monitoring before placing a toy on the market.

2. Third parties do verification - model toy manufacturer shall submit the technical documentation as well as the authorized institution. Authorized institution/authority issues EG report. To manufacturer it is essential to ensure compliance of his products with the Notified Body report. He shall draw up technical documentation and EC declaration of conformity with the Directive (2009/48/EC). Then, he puts the CE mark, name, address and identification number, to monitor the pre-market toys.

4.7. Chinese regulations

China has a major role in the toy industry. Since 2007 the certification is required which includes the manufacture of toys. The requirements apply to all manufacturers from China with the mandatory certification and accreditation Administration (CNCA). Manufacturers of toys in China were able to apply the three certification agencies nominated by the CNCA which certify their products. Toys are subject to inspection and certificate examination. As of June 1st 2007 it is not permitted to leave the toy factory without a certificate, or to sell or import from China. We hope that this measure will be alleviated with increasing international pressure on the environment protection, as well as further expansion of production to toy export market. This increased control has been introduced even before the 2007.

4.8. European regulations

In Europe, comprehensive legislation that deals with the safety of toys is regulated by the Directive of the European Union (EU) on Toy Safety (Council Directive 88/378/EEC). This Directive has a list of requirements which must be consistent with the interpretation of the laws of each EU member state in its safety regulations for the safety of toys. This Directive has been replaced by Council Directive 2009/48/EC to be applied on imports of toys or toys that are manufactured in the EU. During this period, the relevant requirements of the previous directives will continue to apply. Some items are specifically exempt from this law, such as: fashion jewelry for children, Christmas decorations, and sports equipment. Official guidance on the classification of toys in the EU is provided by the European Commission. Where products are not classified as toys will continue to be governed by the General Product Safety Directive. Toy Safety Directive provides an EU-wide compliance with the standards of physical and mechanical, combustion, chemical and electrical properties, but some important aspects of security are not regulated by the directive (for example, standards of hygiene and radioactivity). Safety of toys under Directive also

refers to the nearest valid national or international standards that are applied when the standard is not listed in the Directive. This interpretive clause is present to ensure that new and innovative toys are safe before they are put on the market. Standard EN71 for Toy Safety was agreed by the European Commission as a standard to be met by each toy. If it is determined that toys are unsafe (a violation of these standards, or a manifestation of the risk of injury is not specified in the standards), then the manufacturer, importer or first production unit in question to the EU, is considered guilty of an offense under the toy safety EU regulations.

The principle of “two entries” (in which the manufacturer claims that all steps are taken to ensure the safety of consumers in relation to toys) can be used (in Britain), by the manufacturer to avoid criminal prosecution, fines and possible imprisonment. Unsafe toy is pulled from the market after the EU RAPEX notification system alerts.

4.9. Standards for Safety

From the table below, it can be seen that many regions have different models of the EU safety standards EN71, either directly or through the adoption of ISO 8124 standard which itself is modeled on the EN 71:

The European Union

EN 71-1:2005 + A8: 2009 Safety of toys: mechanical and physical properties
 EN 71-2:2006 + A1: 2007 flammability requirements
 EN 71-3:1994 / AC: 2002, Specification for migration of certain elements
 EN 71-4:1990 / A3: 2007 Experimental sets for chemistry and related activities
 EN 71-5:1993, chemical testing of toys other than experimental sets
 EN 71-6:1994 graphic symbols for marking alerts
 EN 71-7: 2002 finger paints - Requirements and test methods
 EN 71-8:2003 Safety Toys
 EN 71-9: 2005 Organic Compounds
 EN 62115:2005 Safety of electric toys

Council Directive (88/378/EEC) Approximation of the laws of the safety of toys

Council Directive (2009/48/EC) on toy safety

Council Directive (87/357/EEC) Hazardous substances

Council Directive (93/68/EEC) Rules and attitudes to use CE marking

If the existing quality and safety cannot be detected prior to sale, you need a systematic way of informing the public and removal of potentially dangerous products from the market. Before the introduction of monitoring organizations, there were a lot of toys that were recalled by their manufacturers as unsafe. In some cases the problem was significant only after injury or even death of the person who bought the product.

Choking is the number one cause of accidents, but chemicals such as lead can also cause problems in the developing world. Exposure can affect almost every organ and system in the human body, especially the central nervous system. Lead is especially toxic to the brain of young children.

But:

// harmonized standards do not exist;

// harmonized standards are not or only partly applied by the manufacturer;

// one or more harmonized standards have been published with restrictions or

// manufacturer believes that the nature, design, production or purpose of the toys is verified by request to the third parties.

How parents can check whether a toy is safe?

It is important that the toy doesn't contain small parts that are extremely dangerous and that child can swallow. A major problem is that parents cannot chemically test the toys. Until we start with the implementation of new directives on quality control and safety of toys, the best protection is information.

Since the EU has banned plastic to those made of natural materials are again very appreciated, and this could be a good opportunity for our

entrepreneurs. When making furniture, in fact, there is much wood waste, ideal for making toys, but this idea is not implemented yet, except on the level of small, mostly family workshops. On the other hand, imported plastic, stuffed animals and various other toys, of which many, especially those smuggled, reach consumers without previous control. Recently, the Republic Sanitary Inspection has banned the distribution of certain toys from China because of defects. Tests at the Institute of Public Health "Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut" showed that they contain phthalates, dangerous chemicals to soften plastics, which are banned in the EU. Many of the items made for children showed defects already in organoleptic tests: they release the colour; hair was falling off and similar.

Toys and other products for children which have a quality certificate are undoubtedly more expensive than those available on flea market stalls, and parents, hit with poverty, often choose what is cheaper, not knowing that it can be harmful to their children. This makes responsibility of the institutions authorized to keep this type of items from the market even higher. On the other hand, branded toys, especially ones that are the latest hit, are reaching astronomical prices, but there is a large number of forgeries that are a real bait for both children and adults. Stiftung Warentest in late October 2010 published the results of tests that show that 45 out of 50 tested toys for children under age of 3 contain harmful substances. Photos of toys you can see on the site www.test.de. Although more than half of the toys are made in China, among them one can find many well-known manufacturer brands: Brio, Eichhorn, Fisher Price, Plan Toys, Selecta, Sigikid, Steiff and Thomas & Friends.

4.10 What is prohibited in the EU, and approved in Serbia

The domestic market in recent years turned into a landfill of hazardous toys because the government has not harmonized our regulations with EU ones. Authors of portal www.bebac.com announce that this situation will be changed soon, because Serbia should get regulations on safety of children's toys by the end of 2011 which will in accordance with the EU ones. This means that in the future, we will know exactly what are the composition and physical properties of a toy that is on the market.

Over the last few years warnings sporadically have appeared about the harmful and unsafe toys that are banned in the EU market and which are freely sold in Serbia. Most of these warnings can be found on parental www.bebac.com site which contains a list of about 1,000 products harmful to children, mostly chemically toxic toys, puzzles made of foam and wood and plastic cars.

However, it is rarely heard that such toys are withdrawn from circulation. www.bebac.com site editor said that the outdated law in Serbia should be blamed for turning toy market in Serbia to a dump of items harmful to children's health. Thus, in the local toy stores one can buy toys with poor chemical composition and physical properties. One of the dangerous toys that are currently on sale is a magnetic board with letters with which children learn to write, which is sold in large supermarkets. The letters contain table magnets that can be lethal for children. Toys from the list of RAPEX are not rare as well.

5. RECOMMEN- DATIONS AND CONCLUSION

When parents choose a toy for their child, they must understand their responsibility. Chemicals in toys should not adversely affect the health of children, if occasionally they are swallowed or in contact with skin or eyes, for example. While in use, the toys should not release chemical compounds into the environment at levels exceeding the established limits. Toys must not contain dangerous substances (compounds) in quantities that may adversely affect the health of children.

It is clear that every adult can follow these rules. However, after some simple rules, parents can protect children from negative health impacts. Labels and supporting information should provide information about the product: full official name, contact information (addresses and phone numbers), or contact details of importers.

In some cases, the toys should be accompanied by instructions for use and recommendations for maintenance and cleaning. You should be especially careful if a toy has a strong odor, or involves a long flexible strip that can be dangerous for the child.

In any facility where toys are sold, you have the right to check the relevant certificates of conformity with the conclusions of sanitary and food safety (which are valid for 1 or 2-5 years in the case of series production) in the national language. The amount of hazardous materials/compounds that are relevant, necessary for the use of certain toys (modeling, materials and devices, plastic or ceramic molding, enamelling, etc.) should be limited and their level should not exceed the significance limit.

The marking of such toys should contain the following warning:
“Caution for children more than ___ years of age, use under adult supervision.” (Age of the child is defined by the manufacturer).

Having considered the situation in the toy market in Serbia and the potential danger to customers, we suggest some recommendations that would enable parents to avoid contact with dangerous toys:

// Toys should not have a smell. Even a slight odor is not acceptable.

// Do not buy plastic toys, if they are painted or varnished.

- // Toys should not paint hands.
- // Toys should be strong, without tearing, cracks, notches, and adhesive residues (especially in the case of rattles).
- // All toy parts should be firmly fixed (connected, non-adhered in the case of stuffed toys).
- // You can request the seller to show a certificate in accordance with a registration number. Check that the certificate is not a fraud. Attention! The real certificate should be accompanied by an annex to the manufacturer's serial numbers. Make sure these numbers match the numbers on the toy or packaging.
- // Check toys carefully and ask the seller to describe the properties and characteristics.
- // Check if the labeling is correct:
Labeling requirements for toys:
 - /// Labeling on toys / package should be in the official language, should be legible and resistant to washing;
 - /// Toys / package should have a national ID codes and compliance with the competent authority;
 - /// Marking should include the name and trademark, as well as the addresses of the responsible authority that allowed the toys to be sold;
 - /// Marking should indicate the presence of toy's composition, including designation of hazardous substances from the list;
 - /// labeling should specify age of children that can use toys, with brief explanations of the risks (the instruction manual must be included);
 - /// The lack of labeling suggests the illegal origin of toys.

- // The toy should be shown for use in the presence of a demonstration sample.
- // All toys should be individually packed.
- // The toy cannot be placed on the floor / ground.
- // Require from the seller to issue a certificate of acceptance of the toy that is important to keep. Determine the warranty period with the name of store packaging and labels.

15 tips on safe toys

One should be particularly vigilant when buying toys for children under 3 years of age.

1. Do not buy "cheap rubbish". It is often better to buy expensive toys, famous brand in specialty shops. Be especially careful if you do buy toys on the market or other temporary sales points.
2. First ask, and then buy it. Look for information on toy store shelves. Look for operating instructions, preferably in writing. All warnings should be in Serbian.
3. Soft animals and dolls should endure washing. Eyes, nose, buttons and other details need to be well secured.
4. Do not buy toys made of fragile, brittle plastic. Children under age of 3 need toys that are especially durable. They should be resistant when a child is throwing, beating and biting them and should not break.
5. Throw away thin plastic packaging before they reach a child. Throw away broken toys also.
6. Also remove all plastic markings or threads that hold the slips with prices, and more. Tiny little things that can fall off and a child can put in mouth can be dangerous.
7. Be careful with the objects in the kinder eggs. Can be dangerous if they get stuck in the throat of the child.
8. The rattles, pacifier-rings and other toys for children who do not sit alone, should not have any parts that are protruded or glued and that can be taken off or clog the airways, if a child stuffed them in mouth.
9. Take the toy in your hands. If material with which toy is filled with is cracking (such as plastic beads or feels grainy, it is dangerous. Ask the seller with which material a toy is filled with. There should not be any bad seams that can be easily torn. Try them yourself dragging a bit. The weak point of soft animals is usually a seam between the legs.
10. Balls and other round objects should be, at best, at least 5 centimeters in diameter.
11. Be suspicious of a soft plastic which has odour because it may happen that the toy contains harmful chemicals.
12. Chalks, crayons, pencils, etc. should be marked for young children.

Pencils for adults can be dangerous if children suck or lick or line with them on skin.

13. Cords and strings on toys, children's cot, and baby carriages must not be longer than 22 centimeters. This goes for toys for young children that have loops, knots, or something else that can be turned into a noose around the neck of the child.
14. When a child begins to stand up with hands and knees in a crib, approximately in 6th month, take off a toy that is stretched over the entire crib. It happened that the children hung over these toys and threatened to suffocate.
15. Try to avoid toys with strong sound. Pistols, mobile phones and high-pitched animals can damage the hearing of the child. Contact Counseling Consumer Affairs in your municipality if you have any questions concerning toys and safety.

6. ANNEXES

Here are some toys that were dropped from the EU market:

Rubber toys - "Yellow Duck":

Country of Origin: China

The danger: chemical risks

This toy poses a serious chemical risk because 40.5% of weight is isononyl phthalate diisononyl (DINP), which exceeds the maximum weight of 0.1 percent.

Duck, which is pulled to the sound

Country of origin: Netherlands

Risk: the risk of poisoning

This toy poses a risk of poisoning to children because it contains excessive amounts of lead and chromium in red colour (lead 618 mg / kg, chromium 113mg/kg)

Squeaking squeezing toys

Country of Origin: China

The danger: suffocation and chemical risk

The product poses a serious risk of choking because the mechanisms of squeal during stress tests separated and fit into the cylinder for small parts. These toys are a serious chemical risk because they contain the phthalates DEHP 31.9%, which is classified as toxicity category II for raw materials.

Playpen for babies

Country of origin: Italy

The danger: chemical risks

This product poses a serious chemical risk because the plastic part of the product contains excessive amounts of 20.8% of phthalate esters DEHP of total weight.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Finland

Category: Toys

Product: playing surface

Brand: Unknown

Type / number of model: No. 35509000

Description: playing surface size 73 x 130 cm in a cardboard box, the theme of "Moomin"

Country of Origin: Hong Kong

Danger: Chemical

The product poses a chemical risk because it contains the amount of lead that exceeds the limit 90 mg / kg. Dark blue plastic at the bottom of the substrate contains 250 mg / kg of lead. The product does not meet the criteria of the Directive for the European standard EN 71-3. Authorities have banned the import of products.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Germany

Category: Toys

Product: Plastic toy water

Brand: Lena

Type / number of model: Simm, Nos. 65545 and 65548, EAN 4006942655489

Description: Orange Seahorse, measuring about 14 cm. Provides a mechanism for the initiation of fins: item no. 65,545 in vacuum packaging with the brand and Lena item No. 65548 in a plastic bag with the brand printed on the packaging Simm.

Country of origin: Honk Kong

Danger: Chemical

The product poses a chemical risk because the black paint contains more than allowable amounts of lead and more than 660 mg / kg of chromium.

The product does not meet the criteria of the Directive for the European standard EN 71. The product was voluntarily withdrawn from the market and customers.

Example RAPEX control:

Chemical defective, toxic toys

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Estonia

Category: Toys Product: rubber ducks players in the form of "Yellow Duck"

Brand: Honey Baby

Type and number of model: Article No 1199, bar code 5031470012106

Country of Origin: China

DANGER Chemical Risk

This toy poses a serious chemical risk as 40.5% by weight of a isononyl phthalate diisononil) (DINP), which exceeds the allowed maximum of 0.1% weight by Directive 76/769/EEC, which limits the placement and use of certain hazardous substances.

Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
Withdrawal from the market and customer information ordered by the competent body

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Estonia

Category: Toys Product: castanets Brand: Unknown

Type and number of model: Article No 70023, EAN code: 4742090003016

Country of origin: Estonia

DANGER: The release of metals

This product poses a serious risk of release of metals because of lead migration of 1012 mg / kg and chromium of 163 mg / kg with green and yellow castanets exceed allowable limits. This product does not comply with the Toys Directive and the relevant European standard EN 711

Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
Withdrawal from the market and customer information ordered by the competent body.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Italy

Category: Toys Product: rubber massagers Brand: Unknown

Type and number of model: Article 180013 Country: Croatia

DANGER Chemical Risk

This product poses a serious chemical risk because the amount of di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate (DEHP) II category of toxins, which is located in the product, exceeds the maximum level specified in Directive 2005/84/EC.

Specifically: blue massager contains 0.38% phthalates, of which 0.3% DEHP, pink massager contains 0.31% phthalates, of which 0.2% of DEHP.

Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
Customs authorities refused to import.

A country that informs product hazard: United Kingdom
Category: Toys Product: Fast cars, brand Wheel Type and number of model:
Model number -
17/ED202; batch code - 5050373021619 Country of Origin: China
DANGER: Risk of poisoning
Corrected content of soluble chromium in yellow colour on both yellow cars
in the kit was more than maximum allowable level for standard (60 mg / kg).
In addition, the bioavailability of chromium resulting from the use of toys has
come to 0.3 g. This product does not comply with the Toys Directive and the
relevant European standard EN 713
Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
Prohibition of sale by order of the competent body.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Slovakia
Category: Toys Product: Baby book brand: Play & Learn, Baby touch
Type and model number: GG0904/411BK Country of Origin: China
HAZARD: Chemical risk. This product (in its plastic parts) contains phthalate
esters DEHP in amount of 21.6% by weight which greatly exceeds the limit.
Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
The distributor voluntarily stopped sale, withdrawal from the market and
customers informed.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Slovakia
Category: Baby Product: playpen Brand: STANDARD
Type and number of model: Model B 105 Country of Origin: Italy
DANGER: Chemical Risk
This product poses a serious chemical risk is the piece of plastic products
contain excessive amount of 20.8% by weight phthalate esters DEHP.
Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
Distributor and suppliers voluntarily suspended sales and withdrew the
product.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Greece
Category: Toys Product: makeup kit Brand: PRETTY MISS
Type and model number: Deluxe make up, model No. 7020 Country of

Origin: Hong Kong

DANGER: Risk of poisoning

This product poses a risk to children from poisoning due to the migration of barium from the red eye shadow 1747mg/kg, and a red rose from 2259 mg / kg, while the upper limit of 1000 mg / kg. In addition, this product does not have instructions in Greek. .This product does not comply with the Toys Directive and the relevant European standard EN 71

Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
Withdrawal from the market by a competent body.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Greece

Category: Toys Product: Wooden Doll Brand: Eichhorn

Type and number of model: Code 2374 Country of Origin: Czech Republic

DANGER: Risk of poisoning

This product poses a serious risk of poisoning because the migration of chromium from toys 373mg/kg, which exceeds the maximum limit of 60 mg / kg; migration of lead from toys 2170mg/kg, which exceeds the maximum limit of 90 mg / kg. This product does not comply with the Toys Directive and the relevant European standard EN 711

Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:
Withdrawal from the market by a competent body. Issued a press release.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Slovakia

Category: Toys Product: Eva puzzle Brand: Unknown

Type and model number: Soft blocks No 118622 and No 118623 Country of Origin: China

DANGER Chemical Risk

This product poses a serious chemical risk to children; it irritates skin, eyes and respiratory tract because it contains 6 chemical substances (ethyl benzene, xylene, isooctane, acetophenone 2phenol, 2-propanol, ethyl cyclohexane) with harmful and irritating effects on skin, mucous membranes and central nervous system.

The mixture of these chemicals has an additional effect. This product does not comply with the Toys Directive.

Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:

Distributor and supplier voluntarily suspended sales and withdrew from the market.

A country that informs about the dangerous products: Greece

Category: Toys Product: laser gun Brand: Unknown

Type and model number: LASER GUNSHOT, Cod. S139. Country of Origin: China

DANGER Risk of poisoning

This product poses a risk of poisoning because the chromium migration from toy materials 241mg/kg (upper limit is 60 mg / kg), and the migration of lead from toy materials 1291mg/kg (upper limit is 90 mg / kg). This product does not meet with the Toys Directive and European standard for toys EN 711.

Implemented measures to alert COUNTRY OF DANGEROUS PRODUCTS:

Withdrawal from the market by a competent body.

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