



消費者委員會 CONSUMER COUNCIL
香港 · HONG KONG

國際消費者聯會
執委會及理事會成員
EXECUTIVE AND
COUNCIL MEMBER OF
CONSUMERS
INTERNATIONAL

來函檔號 YOUR REF. CB2/BC/6/12
本函檔號 OUR REF. CC 1/257/RTP

5 November 2013

By email: ftsang@legco.gov.hk

Clerk to Bills Committee
Bills Committee on Toys and
Children's Products Safety (Amendment) Bill 2013
Legislative Council, 1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Attn: Ms. Joanne MAK

Dear Ms. Mak,

Bills Committee on Toys and Children's Products Safety
(Amendment) Bill 2013

Thank you for your letter dated 25 October 2013 inviting the Council's views on the captioned Bills. Attached please find the Council's submission, in English only, for consideration of the Bills Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Gilly WONG
Chief Executive
Consumer Council

Encl.

Consumer Council's Submission to the Bills Committee on Toys and Children's Product Safety (Amendment) Bill 2013

1. The Consumer Council (CC) supports the Legislative Council imposing concentration limits of phthalates in toys and children's products, so that restrictions locally will be in line with those adopted overseas such as the European Union, the United States, Canada and Singapore.
2. CC agrees that expanding the application of the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance to cover other products that are intended to facilitate the feeding, hygiene, relaxation, sleep, sucking or teething of a child under 4 years of age and that contain any plasticized materials would be of high priority. However, CC is of the view that phthalates remain widespread in other consumer products that children are exposed to on a daily basis.
3. Studies by overseas (e.g. the US or Taiwan) and local organizations reveal that general consumer products such as plastic mats, rain boots, rain clothes, children's clothing, school supplies (e.g. vinyl backpacks and ring-binders) and other household products (shower curtains) which children use, contain elevated levels of the selected phthalates. Consumers are generally not aware of the presence of those phthalates in consumer goods because there is usually no information or labelling requirements with respect to phthalates. Young children often in contact with these phthalates-containing consumer products may be more vulnerable to the risk of phthalates exposure through ingestion, inhalation and direct contact.

CC therefore urges that consideration should also be given to further expansion of the definition of "children's product" beyond what is now proposed.

4. To reduce the risk of exposure of children to phthalates, the imposition of concentration limit should be reinforced by publicity and education about the risks of phthalates to children so that parents and care takers would be alert about the phthalate content in products that children use. They can be advised to purchase products which are in compliance with the phthalate limits or labelled "phthalates free", or monitor their children's use of products with plastic components not specifically designed for teething, sucking or feeding.

Consumer Council
5 November 2013