

Friday, 21 December 2007

SA BANS BUTANEDIOL IN BEAD TOYS

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, has today signed a second dangerous goods declaration in the wake of the recent Bindeez toxic beads scare.

Last month, Bindeez toy beads products were recalled around the nation and overseas when New South Wales hospital authorities linked the product to the poisoning of children who ingested large quantities of the beads.

“At the time, I immediately signed a dangerous goods declaration relating specifically to the Bindeez beads products,” Ms Rankine said.

“However, as a further precaution and following advice from New South Wales authorities, I have issued a second dangerous goods declaration which applies to ALL bead toys containing 1,4 butanediol.

This is a chemical compound, which has triggered the hospitalisation of children because it metabolises into Fantasy when swallowed.

“Parents and guardians who will be picking up gifts on lay-by or previously purchased ‘sale’ items, may be picking up toys which could include Bindeez beads. These items are dangerous and should not be given to children as a Christmas present.”

Beads toys that **do not** contain the butanediol compound will be still available for sale and parents need to be mindful that they should supervise their children as they play with such products as children have a tendency to place items in their mouth.

“I’m also reminding people to do their own safety checks when buying gifts, especially when it comes to toys and ensuring that they are age appropriate and that items are used correctly and for their intended purpose,” Ms Rankine said.

“I urge all parents and guardians to check all toys that their children may receive for Christmas, as it is a time of year that should be spent safely with family and friends, not in a hospital.”

“If you discover that a product is faulty or dangerous, report it to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA), stop using the product, and keep it out of the reach of children.”

“Anyone who suspects a product may be dangerous should contact OCBA. The product will be tested and appropriate action will be taken. One person’s report may prevent others from being harmed,” Ms Rankine said.

A list of banned and dangerous goods can be found on the OCBA website (www.ocba.sa.gov.au). People are encouraged to visit the website to check that particular products are safe, or telephone 8152 0732 if they have any concerns.