

Thursday 3rd January 2008

BLANKET BAN ON CHEMICAL FOUND IN BEAD TOYS

A second dangerous goods declaration in the wake of the recent Bindeez toxic beads scare takes effect today.

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.

Acting Minister for Consumer Affairs, Paul Caica, said, "At the time of the incident, a dangerous goods declaration was signed relating specifically to the Bindeez beads products."

"However, as a further precaution a second dangerous goods declaration has been issued which now applies to ALL bead toys containing 1,4 butanediol," Mr Caica said.

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

"I'd also urge parents and guardians to carry out their own safety checks of any other gifts received over this festive season and ensure that they are age appropriate and that items are used correctly and for their intended purpose," Mr Caica said.

Small toys should not be given to any children under three years of age because they are an ingestion hazard. Bead toys that **do not** contain the chemical butanediol will be still available for sale. Parents need to also be mindful that older siblings may have received bead toys and they should supervise their children as they play with such products as smaller children have a tendency to put them in their mouths.

"Should you discover that a product is faulty or dangerous, stop using the product, put it out of your child's reach and report it to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA)."

"Anyone who suspects a product could be dangerous should contact OCBA. The product will be inspected and appropriate action will be taken. One person's report may prevent others from being harmed," Mr Caica 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.