

Thursday, 30 November 2006

CHRISTMAS TOY SAFETY WARNING

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs has found eight toys that fail safety and labelling standards as part of its routine pre-Christmas monitoring program.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine says it is always disappointing to hear of products on the market that fail safety requirements, and this is particularly concerning when they are toys.

“Traders have a responsibility to ensure that the products they sell are safe and meet mandatory requirements,” Ms Rankine says.

“Finding even one non-compliant toy shows just how valuable the monitoring program is, particularly in the lead up to Christmas.

“I am pleased that the stores involved have responded promptly in recalling or withdrawing potentially dangerous items from sale.

“The monitoring program will continue testing a wide range of products, focusing on toys, throughout the pre-Christmas period however, we are reminding shoppers to be mindful when purchasing presents for children.

“Items may appear harmless but it is important to inspect goods carefully, check labels and ensure the gift is suitable for the age group of the child.

“Also, read any instructions and only use the items for their intended purpose.”

Items that have been removed from sale are:

- Two items are being recalled from the [Tony the Train Engine](#) series of toys. The items are a church building and a packet of wooden shrubs and trees. Both items have small parts that pose an ingestion/inhalation hazard, and are intended for children aged 24 months plus. These toys are being recalled nationally.
- [Two mobile telephone toys](#) that could damage children’s ears due to the excessive noise. The trader has voluntarily withdrawn these toys from sale.
- [Telephone intercom set](#) that could damage children’s ears due to the excessive noise. The trader has voluntarily withdrawn this toy from sale.
- A [foam \(EVA\) puzzle toy](#) that does not meet mandatory labelling requirements.
- A [bag of magnetic numbers](#) that carry no recommended age gradings, but are aimed at children under 3 years of age. They contain small parts that pose an ingestion / inhalation hazard, and the magnets also detach easily, posing a further hazard.
- [Expanding novelty crocodile toy](#), which was supplied with a children’s magazine nationally. Expanding novelty toys are banned in South Australia because they expand in water and can swell in a child’s throat and stomach if swallowed, proving a choking hazard.

If consumers have purchased any of these items they should stop using them and return them to the store of purchase for a full refund.

For more information contact OCBA on 8152 0732 or for a list of banned and dangerous goods visit www.obca.sa.gov.au.