

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

Monday 23 August 2010

NATIONAL RECALL ON SANBROOK BABY SOOTHER BRANDS

South Australia's Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) is urging the public to be on alert for several widely-distributed lines of babies' dummy, which are now the subject of a national recall.

The dummies, distributed by Sanbrook Brands Pty Ltd, are being recalled following incidents of product failure, in which teats have come off.

OCBA says parents and carers should immediately cease using any Sanbrook *Happy Baby Soft Feel Natural Latex Cherry Soothers* or *Happy Baby Soft Feel Nite Glo Natural Latex Cherry Soothers*.

OCBA has joined the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in announcing a public warning notice about the risks of choking for infants, due to potential teat separation.

Although tests on Sanbrook dummies involved in initial reports proved inconclusive, in the past week, the ACCC has received reports that another 25 instances of teat separation have occurred since late January this year.

As a result, the ACCC declared this a matter of significant public safety and is urgently conducting further investigations, and has engaged the CSIRO to conduct further testing.

South Australia's Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, David Green said since January 2006 OCBA had received five complaints in this state involving the teat separating from the shield of 'Happy Baby' Dummies, with the most recent occurring earlier this month.

"OCBA has been monitoring the situation in South Australia and has been relaying information to the ACCC, while also providing dummies for testing.

"We fully appreciate the concerns that parents will have on this matter, and together with the ACCC, we offer the following general advice on baby soothers or dummies."

- Check the dummy before each use by pulling hard on the teat and tugging on the handle and ring to ensure the teat will not give way under pressure.
- Never leave a child with a dummy in their mouth if they cannot remove it on their own.
- Throw dummies away as soon as they show signs of wear and tear.
- Never leave a dummy in direct sunlight.
- Always have two to three dummies available.
- Sterilise or wash dummies as recommended by the manufacturer—usually by placing the dummy in a baby-bottle sterilising solution or boiling water.
- Be particularly vigilant when your child is teething as the dummy teat may be especially subject to damage through vigorous biting.
- Never use a ribbon or string to attach dummies to children's clothes, their cot or pram. These ties can wrap around a child's neck and cause strangulation.

As this is a national recall, full details on the brands affected can be found on the ACCC's designated recalls website: www.recalls.gov.au

Anyone who has experienced teats coming off dummies should immediately contact OCBA on 8204 9777 or 131 882 for regional callers, visit the SA website at www.ocba.sa.gov.au, or call the ACCC on 1300 302 502.

Sanbrook Brands has offered a full refund, replacement soother or online voucher. For more information, members of the public can call the company on 1800 335 917 or email safety@sanbrook.com.au

**For further details, please call the Attorney-General's Department Media Unit
on 0422 007 069**