

Tuesday, 2 December 2008

### **DANGEROUS TOYS CROSSED OFF SANTA'S LIST**

A toy designed to expand in water, a children's folding chair and a toy gun with a laser are among products that have been removed from sale following pre-Christmas product safety inspections.

Consumer Affairs Minister Gail Gago today announced that 16 items had failed safety standards – or were found to be hazardous - during the annual monitoring performed by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs.

Eight traders have been ordered to remove the potentially dangerous items from sale.

“Hundreds of toys and other gifts have been checked for any dangers they may pose if they are wrapped up under the Christmas tree,” Ms Gago said.

“As a result, a number of products have been withdrawn from sale.”

The failed items are:

- A children's cartoon folding chair that can entrap small fingers.
- Candle decorations that can ignite
- A magnetic learning set that releases small parts, posing a choking/ingestion hazard.
- A toy gun with a laser that has a power rating of 12 times the permitted limit by Australian Customs regulations.
- A Magic Beast Growing toy that expands in liquid (a banned item in SA)
- Various novelty items that contain or release small parts posing a choking/ingestion hazard. These include a plastic squeeze toy, ball projectile toy, spinning top, toy tractor, locomotive learning set, wooden alphabet train, toy truck, and a bath plug and toy set.

“Items that expand when placed in liquid are banned from sale in South Australia because if a child ingests part of the toy, that part could swell and pose a choking hazard or problems in the digestive system,” Ms Gago said

The expanding toy was found at a discount variety store and the trader was asked to immediately remove all the items from sale.

Ms Gago said that consumers who suspect they may have purchased one of these items should return them to the place of purchase for a full refund.

“I also want to encourage Christmas shoppers to buy sensibly this Christmas and ensure gifts are suitable for the age of the child receiving the gift,” she said.

Ms Gago issued a warning to traders about their responsibilities around safety.

“It is a serious offence to manufacture or supply a banned item or an item that does not meet applicable safety standards. This carries a maximum penalty is \$10,000,” Ms Gago said.

“We are reminding traders to ensure that their stock complies with safety regulations.

OCBA’s product safety inspectors will be checking that stores are not selling the items that have been ordered off shelves.

“We want to minimise the safety risks to consumers so that everyone has an enjoyable and safe Christmas.”

If consumers have any product safety concerns they should contact OCBA’s product safety section on 8152 0732.