

Wednesday, 25th March 2009

CONSUMERS WARNED ABOUT UNSAFE BABY PRODUCTS

Parents are being warned about four potentially unsafe baby products after a spate of voluntary national recalls in the past week.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says the *Mother's Choice Riviera high lo highchair* and *Peg Perego Skate Pram/ Stroller* have both been found to have small parts come loose – one posing a choking hazard and the second making a seat insecure.

An activity table (*Evenflo ExerSaucer Triple Fun Stationary Activity Centre*) has a cap at one end that can loosen and fall off, causing a child leaning on it to fall and a baby food blender (known as *Babymoove Bebedelice*) has a rubber seal in the blender lid that can break and become chopped up within baby food.

“The safety of our babies is paramount and while the last thing we need is unsafe equipment involved in their day to day care, it is good to see suppliers and sellers co-operating when these problems come to light,” says Minister Gago.

“Suppliers involved in these voluntary national recalls are offering solutions to correct any product inadequacies and much of the detail can be found at a glance on www.recalls.gov.au .

“Parents are warned to check their homes for any of these items and ensure babies aren't at risk while they rectify these areas of concern.”

Mother's Choice Riviera high lo highchairs

- Product info: About 2,900 sold by Target Australia since January 2008.
Defect: Hinge rivet plastic caps may fall out posing a choking hazard to small children.
Consumer Action: Stop using if there are any loose caps and seek replacements from IGC Dorel on 1300 809 526 or customerservice@igcdorel.co.nz .

Peg Perego Skate Pram/Stroller

- Product Info: Sold by children's nursery product retailers since February 2008.
Defect: Small steel pins on either side of the bassinet and seat assembly can fall out in use leaving bassinet or seat to rotate freely and risk child falling out.
Consumer Action: If any pins are missing stop using it and arrange a free repair service or repair kit from Nursery Elegance on 1300 330 356.

Evenflo ExerSaucer Triple Fun Stationary Activity Centre

- Product Info: Imported between December 2006 and November 2008.
- Defect: When used as an activity table (stage 3) a cap at one end can loosen and fall off, posing a potential fall hazard.
- Consumer Action: Free repair kit available from Roger Armstrong Nursery Furniture by contacting 1800062484 or service.ra@bigpond.com.

Babymoove Bebedelice

- Product Info: Sold in Australia December 2008 and January 2009 and to online retailers.
- Defect: reports of rubber seal in lid of blender bowl container breaking and causing leak and one was chopped up and mixed in the food.
- Consumer Action: Improved replacement lid available from Rose and Lily Pty Ltd by phoning 1300 119 837.

“Parents should always remain vigilant about equipment used for babies by checking that day to day use hasn’t caused any deterioration in its structural integrity posing a potential safety risk,” says Minister Gago.

Simple advice about nursery items is available in a comprehensive ‘Keeping Baby Safe’ publication downloadable from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs website (listed below).

Tips relating to highchairs include:

- Never leave children unattended in a high chair;
- Choose a chair with a harness or restraining system for maximum safety;
- Check that chairs are stable and that the locks work. Ask for a demonstration;
- Before buying a table mounted chair, make sure your table is able to support it and that non-slip mounting devices are in good condition.

Minister Gago says that prams and strollers have been the subject of a mandatory standard in South Australia since July 2008. This standard covers prams and strollers purchased both new or second-hand from stores.

Consumers should consider the following advice when purchasing a pram or stroller:

- Look for a sticker on the pram indicating it complies with mandatory Australian Standard AS/NZS 2088;
- Make sure it is fitted with a restraint harness to prevent falls; a five-point harness is ideal;
- If the pram or stroller can fold up, make sure that frame locks are working properly and that it can’t collapse during use;
- Ensure that footbrakes are operational and coloured red;
- Ensure a wrist tether-strap is provided.

“These products hold consumer’s most precious cargo, their children, so it’s important that faulty products are reported quickly to ensure that action can be taken.”

For product recall information consumers can visit www.recalls.gov.au or contact the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs’ (OCBA) Product Safety Branch on 8152 0732, or visit the website at www.ocba.sa.gov.au