

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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Father Christmas rethinks freebie gift

Centro Shopping Centres have recalled pop-top bottles from the advice of the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA). Father Christmas was giving these freebie gifts to children.

The Centro Shopping Centre pop-top bottle has been recalled because the spout can come off while the bottle is in use, presenting a choking hazard to any child or adult who may use the bottle.

The bottle was given out by Father Christmas to children who visited the Arndale, Hollywood Plaza and Colonnades Centro shopping centres. The bottles were distributed over a four-day period and approximately 800 pop-top bottles have been given out to children.

Pop-top bottles are designed so that the top will lift and allow drink to flow through. The problems start when the top pops off altogether. This can be the result of poor design or manufacture, or as the product wear and tear over time.

Deputy Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Euan Miller said, "This particular bottle is a serious concern to me, particularly because this toy was being distributed to children. Pop-top style bottles are very popular as promotional giveaways. However if the top pops off altogether it can put consumers at risk of choking."

A carer brought this to the attention of OCBA, after the spout came off the bottle easily, just prior to a child having a drink.

Following the receipt of this complaint, OCBA quickly contacted the Centro Arndale management, who withdrew the item immediately. OCBA has been working with Centro to resolve the matter. Parents are encouraged to take these bottles away from children and to cease using them. They can return them to Centro and receive a Christmas Carol CD or a Frisbee.

"Centro Shopping Centres management has been cooperative with the recall, but this should add as a warning to traders considering giving away these pop-top bottles as promotional items. Suppliers have a responsibility to ensure all products, sold or given away, are safe."

Consumers are encouraged to contact OCBA if they suspect that a product is dangerous. The product will be tested and appropriate action taken. The consumers report may prevent others from being harmed.

A list of banned and dangerous goods can be found on the OCBA website (www.ocba.sa.gov.au). Consumers are encouraged to visit the website to check that particular products are safe, or telephone 8152 0732 if they have any concerns.

OCBA has a sample of the drink bottle. Please contact Immacolata Bollella on 8204 9512 if you wish to view or photograph the product.