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Consumer Product Safety

Health Canada Consumer Product Safety

Seneca
Growing Up Healthy & Green

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Consumer Product Safety is...

Part of Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch (HECS)

- ➡ 50 Product Safety Officers in 6 regions nationally
- ➡ 16 Product Safety Officers in Ontario
- ➡ Product Safety Laboratory in Ottawa
- ➡ Headquarters in Ottawa



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What we do ...

Health Canada is actively involved in protecting the Canadian public from unreasonable risks from consumer products by:

- Developing safety standards and guidelines.
- Enforcing legislation by conducting investigations, inspections, seizures and prosecutions.
- Testing and conducting research on consumer products.
- Providing importers, manufacturers and distributors with hazard and technical information.
- Publishing product advisories, warnings and recalls.
- Promoting safety and the responsible use of products through information and education programs.



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Our Partners

- All levels of government
- Canadian public
- Industry
- Public Health Departments
- Fire Marshall's Office, Coroners, Police
- Ministry of Education
- Early Years Centres
- Ministry of Children and Youth
- Injury Prevention Coalitions



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Legislation

Hazardous Products Act and Regulations:

- 3 main areas of emphasis:
 - Mechanical hazards
 - Chemical hazards
 - Flammability hazards
 - Schedule I, Part I - 33 banned items
 - Schedule I, Part II - 33 regulated items

Food and Drugs Act, Cosmetic Regulations



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Focus on 3 areas:

➡ Mechanical hazards

- are addressed for many children's products such as toys, cribs, strollers, playpens, etc.
- restrictions for: strength of materials, pinching hazards, sharp edges and points, small components, noise



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Chemical Hazards

- **lead in surface coatings on toys, furniture and other products for use by children.
(e.g. lamps, umbrellas, picture frames).**
- **other heavy metals such as arsenic, barium, antimony, cadmium, mercury and selenium in surface coatings on toys.**
- **other chemical substances such as carbon tetrachloride, benzene, petroleum distillates, boric acid, methyl alcohol.**
- **Bisphenol A**



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► Flammability Hazards

- all textile products must meet flammability requirements. Some examples:

clothing

children's sleepwear

fabric on toys

carpets

bedding

futons

tents

fabric picture frames



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Banned Products - some examples

- ➡ Self-feeding devices
- ➡ Baby walkers
- ➡ Yo-yo balls
- ➡ Relight candles
- ➡ Balloon blowing kits
- ➡ Jequirity beans
- ➡ Lawn darts
- ➡ UFFI



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Regulated Products ... include ...

- cellulose insulation
- glazed ceramics and glassware
- carpet
- charcoal
- consumer chemicals and containers
- infant feeding bottle nipples
- kettles
- surface coating materials
- matches
- lighters
- children's sleepwear
- textiles
- toys
- carriages and strollers
- baby gates
- pacifiers
- cribs and cradles
- playpens
- car seats
- mattresses
- safety glass
- science education sets
- tents
- bedding



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Unregulated Issues

New hazards with consumer products that are not addressed in current regulations

➡ Examples: bath seats, magnets in toys

What do we do?

- ➡ Review the issue
- ➡ Consult with industry and stakeholders
- ➡ Educate and inform
- ➡ Voluntary action / industry standards
- ➡ Regulate if necessary



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What we don't do ...

- ➡ **Electrical and Gas products**
- ➡ **Explosives**
- ➡ **Food, Drugs, Natural Health Products, Biologics and Medical Devices**
- ➡ **Pest Control Products**
- ➡ **Tobacco Products**
- ➡ **Automobiles and parts**



Why we have regulations

➡ Injury and death statistics are evaluated and can lead to new or amended regulations. For example:

Cribs and Cradles:

- 1972 to 1986 43 fatalities
- 1986 to present 37 fatalities
36 from pre-1986 cribs

Baby Gates:

- 1971 to 1990 (pre-regs) 2 fatalities, 15 near misses
- after regs no fatalities, no near misses



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Definition of Sell includes:

- to offer for sale
- to distribute
- to give away

Regulations cover new and **second hand** products, including **garage sales** and **give-aways** (e.g. sample package of new household cleaner or shampoo)



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Second Hand Children's Products

- consumer products, whether **new** or **used**, must meet safety standards

What To Look For:

- ensure all parts are present and functioning - damaged articles should be discarded
- look for model number and date of manufacture
- instructions for use / assembly instructions / warning labels must be present on cribs



Cribs

- using a crib manufactured before the Fall of 1986 poses potential hazards that may result in serious injuries including death





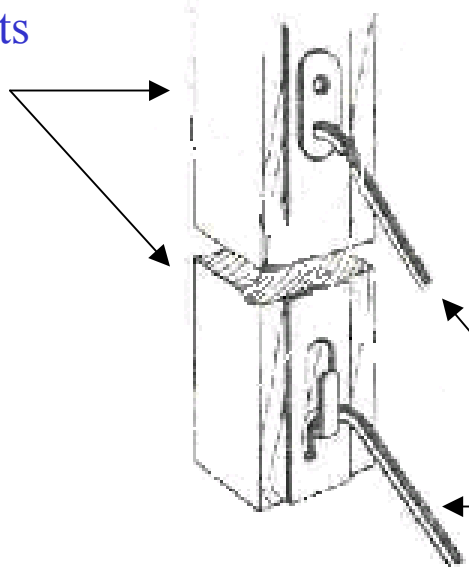
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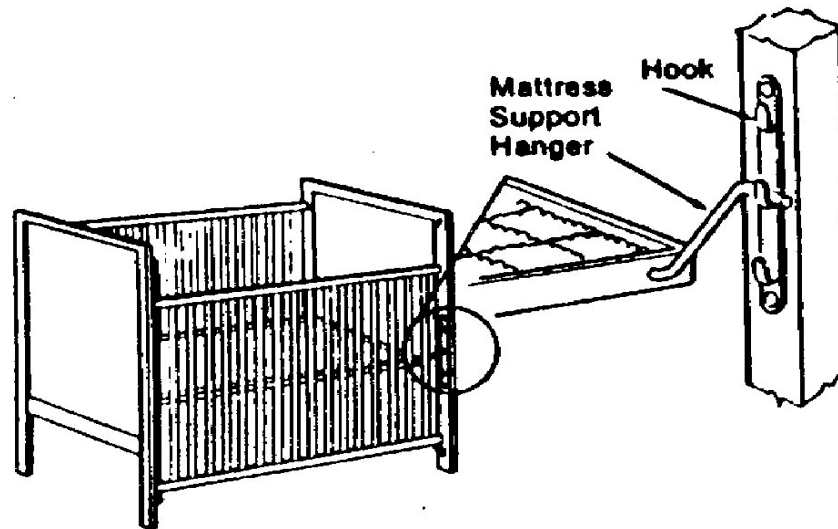
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Cribs with a mattress support system using S or Z hooks do not meet the current regulations, and cannot legally be sold or even given away.

Corner posts



Hooks





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Problems with these mattress supports ...

- dislodgement, detachment, disengagement due to movement on the top of the mattress, or activity under the crib
- result could be the child becoming lodged between the mattress and end or side of crib



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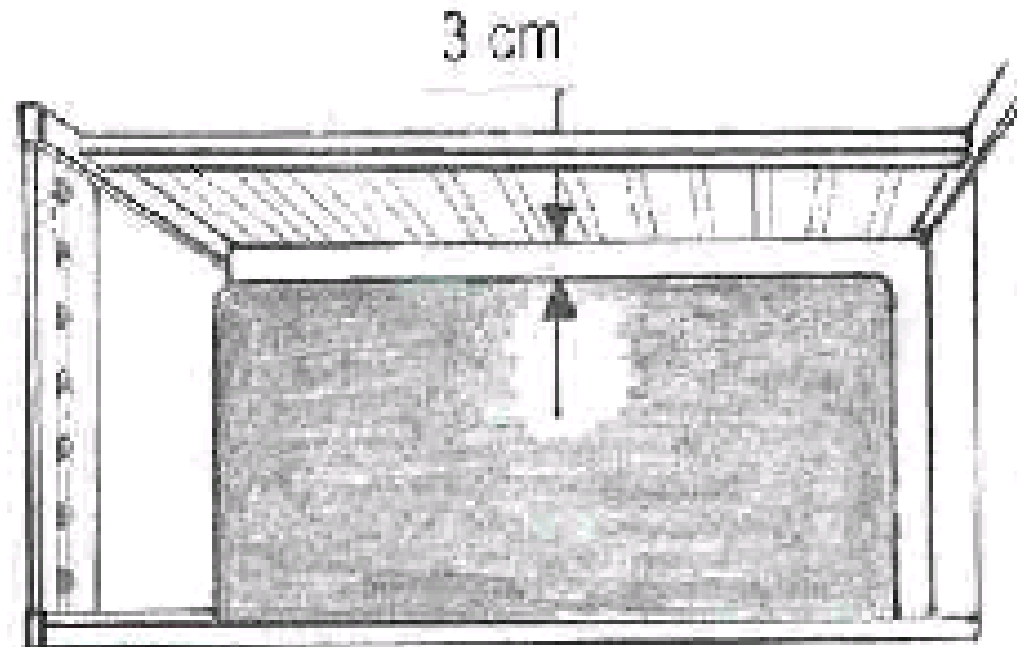
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Mattresses are not often sold with the cribs. If one is supplied with a crib, it must be no thicker than 15cm (6 in.) and must fit snugly. No more than a 3 cm (1 3/16 in.) gap on any side is allowed when the mattress is pushed into the corner of the crib. This is also a guide for purchasing a mattress.





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Proposed Changes to the Crib and Cradle Regulations

- Rigid portable cribs must meet same side height requirements as standard size cribs
- Minimum side height of 230mm to be maintained at all times
- Eliminate toe-holds and cut-outs that can allow a child to climb out of the crib



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Proposed Changes to the Crib and Cradle Regulations (cont'd)

- Clarify requirements for corner post (canopy) extensions
- Update and clarify definitions and test methods
- Add requirements for bassinets including labelling, construction and performance



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Bumper Pads

✘ Health Canada does not recommend the use of bumper pads in cribs because there are the potential hazards of:

- suffocation
- entanglement in loose bedding, ties
- climbing





Window Covering Products

- awareness campaign launched Nov 2005 “Out of Reach”
- never put a crib, bed or playpen near a window or door where a child can reach curtain or blind cords
- the child could strangle in the cord (outer or inner)
- 27 deaths and 21 near misses since 1986 ... **incidents continue** to happen





Playpens

- small mesh openings must not permit the passage of a 6.4 mm (1/4 in.) diameter rod to prevent finger or button entrapment
- playpen must not present any scissoring, shearing or pinching hazards with the collapsing mechanism



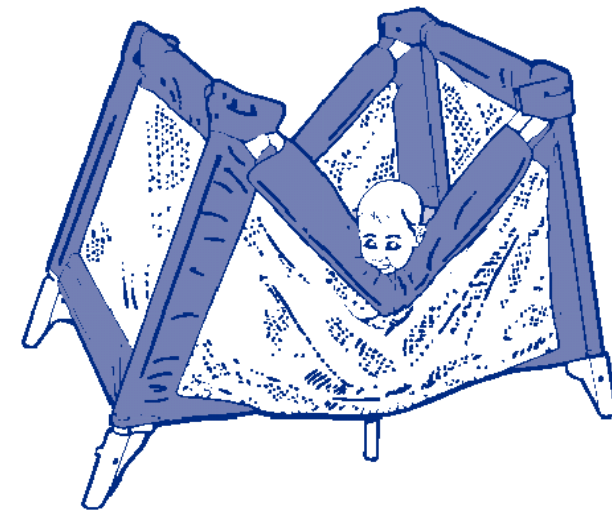


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Playpens ... Cont'd

- exposed bolts can catch clothing
- design innovations have led to new and unregulated hazards
- collapsing V sides and change table attachments have caused strangulation deaths





Baby Gates

- openings must be small enough to prevent a child from placing their head through the holes
- any V shaped openings along the upper edge of the gate must have a spacing of 37 mm (1 1/2 in.) or less





Carriages and Strollers

- if made before **1985** it may not meet safety standards

What To Look For:

- must have a lap belt attached to seat or frame (and should be used)
- must have working brakes and locking mechanism for folding models
- ensure wheels are solidly attached



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Baby Walkers

- mistaken belief that they help develop motor skills
- from 1990 to 2001, CHIRPP found 1,900 injuries associated with baby walkers in 10 hospitals
- HC has reports of 7 deaths prior to 1994
- banned April 7, 2004





Bath Seats

- false sense of security
- **supervision** is generally the key issue
- suction cups may come loose
- seat could tip over or child could slip through leg opening
- 12 deaths and 23 near misses
- consultation is complete and HC is assessing the options to ban or regulate





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Car Seats

- must have a tether strap, complete with hardware for proper installation
- Transport Canada recommends not to use if older than 10 years (or as per manufacturer's recommendation)
- for information contact Transport Canada at 1-800-333-0371 or www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety



High Chairs

- not regulated, industry standards

What To Look For:

- should have restraining straps:
 - around the waist and between the legs
 - that should always be used
 - that are securely attached and work properly
- stable and wide base



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Bunk Beds

- not regulated
- the upper bunk should never be used for children under six
- the top bunk should have guard rails on all sides
- the mattress should fit snugly against all four sides
- Health Canada recommends that bunk beds meet the current ASTM safety standards



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Pacifiers

- regulations are the most stringent - cover size of mouthguard, mechanical separation, chemicals in the latex
- pacifiers must be strong enough not to separate into small pieces on which a baby could choke or suffocate
- never tie a pacifier around a baby's neck - this is a strangulation hazard
- pacifier should not be used as a teether - don't let baby chew on mouthguard



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Toys

- no small components for children under age 3
- no sharp edges or points
- on soft toys, eyes and nose should be firmly attached - including homemade toys
- rattles should be chunky so as not to pose a choking hazard



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Some Banned Toys

- lawn darts
- noisy toys emitting over 100 db
- toys stuffed with plant seeds
- toys with certain chemicals, including lead
- yo-yo balls





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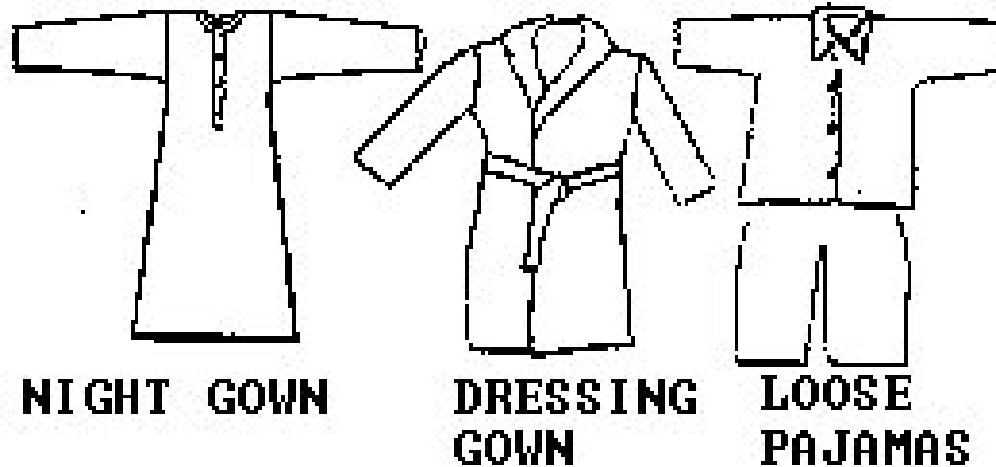
Balloons

- leading non-food cause of choking death in children
- keep uninflated balloons away from children
- dispose of burst balloons promptly
- voluntary labelling requirements on packaging.



Children's Sleepwear

- sizes 6 months (7 kg/14 lb.) to 14X only
- all loose fitting sleepwear made of 100% cotton, acrylic, or acetate or blends of these fibres will not meet flammability standards and cannot be sold





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Textiles

- minimum flammability requirement for all textiles
- some textile products have more stringent requirements
 - bedding
 - mattresses/futons
 - carpets
 - tents



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Children's Clothing

- hood and neck drawstrings can become entangled on playground equipment, fences or other items (**recommend alternate closures such as velcro**)
- ropes, scarves and toggles can also be a problem
- waist drawstrings can become entangled on vehicles, eg. bus door (**recommend string length be limited to 8 cm when garment is fully extended**)



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Playground Equipment

- remove bicycle helmets before using playground equipment
- ensure children do not tie ropes to slides and other playground equipment



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Lighters

- extensive testing required
- regulations cover cigarette lighters
- regulations include labelling, child resistancy and performance standards
- proposed Regulations for utility lighters
- key to safety around children is keeping them **out of sight** and **out of reach**
- must be child resistant NOT child proof



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Candles

- re-light candles banned
- proposed regulations which include
 - warning labelling
 - limiting lead in metallic wicks (<600 ppm)
- candle holders not included in Regulations, but often involved in fire incidents





Cosmetics

- cosmetics must comply with the Food and Drugs Act and Cosmetic Regulations
- notification of cosmetics is mandatory
- ingredient listing legislation came into force on November 16, 2006
- 500 ingredients on a ‘cosmetic hotlist’ which are prohibited or restricted in cosmetics



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Some restricted and prohibited cosmetic ingredients

- ➡ MMA (Methyl methacrylate)
- ➡ Acetronitrile

Black Henna Tattoos

- ➡ May contain PPD (p-Phenylenediamine)



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Consumer Chemicals in Canada



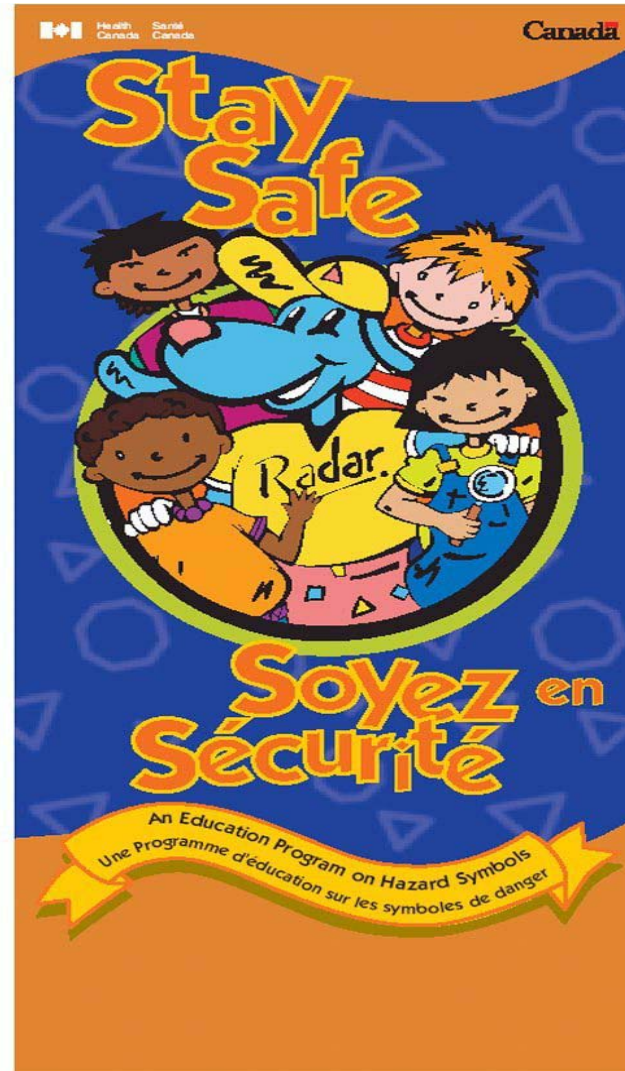
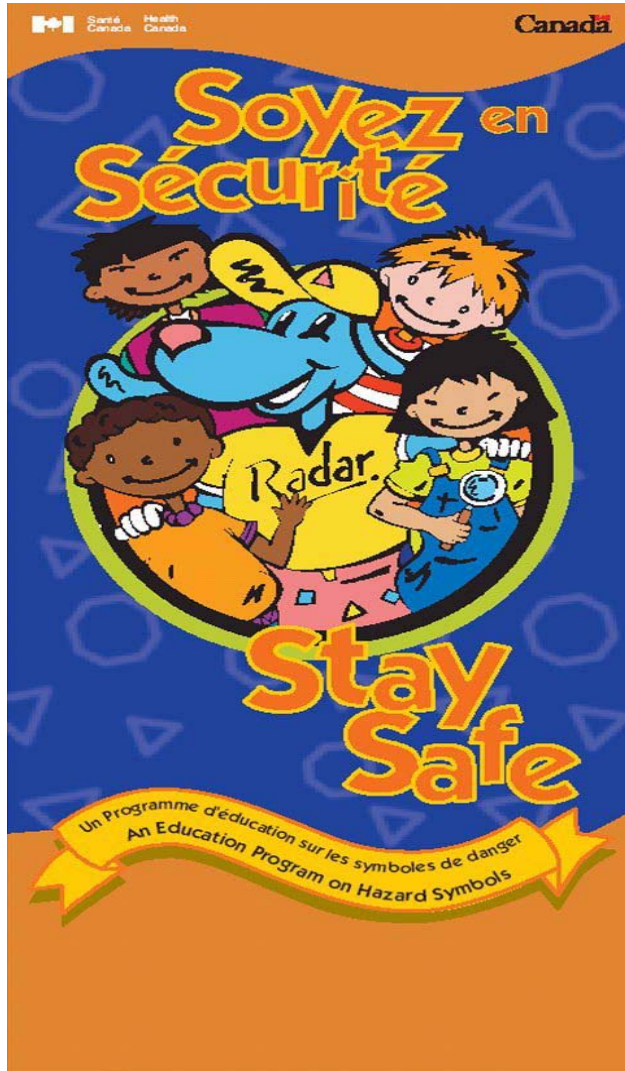
- hazard symbols show type of hazard
- 50% of hospital visits for children under 5 are due to poisonings
- STAY SAFE program for preschool to age 9



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Stay Safe Educational Program





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Current Product Safety Issues



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Lead in Children's Products

Surface coatings on Toys and Children's Products

- ➡ Limit of 600 ppm total lead
- ➡ Limits for other heavy metals

Lead in Toys made of Plastic Material

- ➡ 600 ppm total lead in accessible plastic parts of toys for children under 3 years

Children's Jewellery

- ➡ Limit of 600 ppm total lead and 90 ppm migratable lead



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Lead Risk Reduction Strategy

Proposed standards to reduce risks to children:

Group 1 - Products brought to the mouth
(proposed 90 ppm total lead)

➡ (eg., pacifiers, beverage straws, crayons, modelling clay)

Group 2 - Children's equipment/furniture

Group 3 - Food-ware products

Group 4 - Products to be melted or burned indoors



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Small Magnets in Toys

- Issue: Small powerful “rare earth” magnets used in jewellery, household items, children’s building toys, action figures, science and craft kits can break away from the product.
 - ➡ If a child swallows more than one magnet over a short period of time, the magnets can attract in the intestine and cause serious damage and can be fatal.

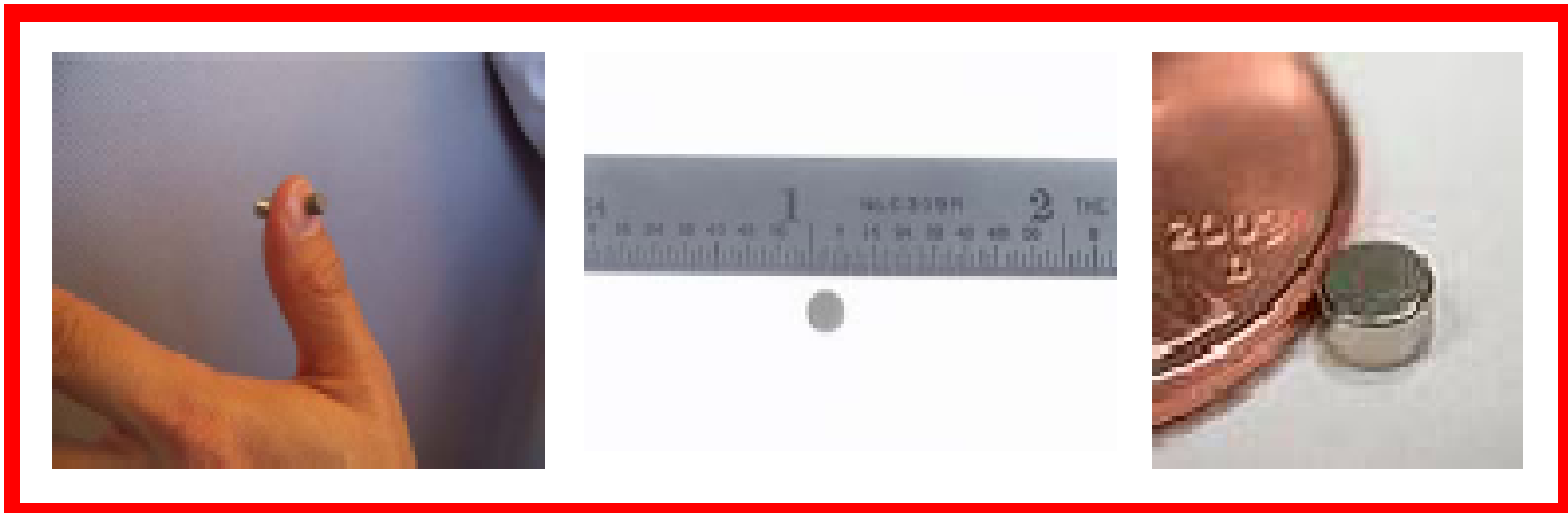


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Ingested Magnets Can Cause Serious Intestinal Injuries

- CPSC Safety Alert, 2007





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Bisphenol A (BPA)

- ➔ Bisphenol A (BPA) is an industrial chemical used to make a hard, clear plastic known as polycarbonate, which is used in many consumer products, including reusable water bottles and baby bottles. Bisphenol A is also found in epoxy resins, which act as a protective lining on the inside of metal-based food and beverage cans.
- ➔ The preliminary research tells us the general public need not be concerned. In general, most Canadians are exposed to very low levels of bisphenol A and it does not pose a significant health risk
- ➔ The focus now is on the health of newborns and infants under 18 months. Science tells us that exposure levels are below those that could cause health effects, but since they are close to the levels where potential effects could occur, the Government wants to be prudent and reduce exposures further.



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Bisphenol A (BPA)

- ➔ The Government of Canada is proposing to reduce bisphenol A exposure in infants and newborns by proposing a number of actions:
 - ➔ to ban polycarbonate baby bottles;
 - ➔ to develop stringent migration targets for bisphenol A in infant formula cans; to work with industry to develop alternative food packaging and develop a code of practice;
 - ➔ to list bisphenol A under Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.
- ➔ Please see www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca



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Counterfeit Concerns

Products: virtually every product category

- ▶ Cosmetic, toy, battery, hockey helmet, electrical products, drugs, electronics, fashion, etc.

Concerns:

- ▶ contamination, poor quality, safety standards not met, uncertified products bearing certification marks, trademark and property rights violations

What to look for:

- ▶ Spelling errors, poor quality printing, unusual country of origin, off-price



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Public Advisories

- ▶ Issued when risk to health and safety of consumer or user of product is evident
- ▶ Usually issued by the company responsible for the product
- ▶ Health Canada Public Advisories and Warnings are issued when:
 - A hazard posing a serious risk to health and safety of consumers is identified
 - The company responsible for the product does not cooperate with a recall or the recall initiated is ineffective
 - Several brands are found to pose the same hazard



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HEALTH CANADA, PRODUCT SAFETY
****NEW TOLL FREE NUMBER****
1-866-662-0666

Use this number to report a product related injury or death, or a safety-related issue with a consumer product.

**For more Consumer Product Safety information,
visit our new website at:
<http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps>**

For More Information:

Tel Toll Free: 1-866-662-0666

Email: Tor_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Website: <http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps>

Consumer Product Safety works closely with partners to protect consumers from product related hazards and to promote the safe use of products



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Recalls of Consumer Products

For information check:

- Company website
- Consumer Product Safety's Product Recall list
www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps
- US CPSC website - www.cpsc.gov



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Website Information

- **Health Canada**
www.healthcanada.ca
- **Consumer Product Safety**
<http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps>
 - information on Consumer Product Safety and Cosmetics
 - consumer product recalls
- **Information on the Government of Canada**
www.canada.gc.ca or 1 800 O Canada
(1-800-622-6232)
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www.safekidscanada.ca



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- To order more than 100 copies

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E-mail: cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mail: Information and Education Unit

Health Canada

Postal Locator: 3504D

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Contacts

- **Consumer Product Safety**
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- **Health Canada General Enquiries for Ontario Region** 1-866-999-7612
- **Information on the Government of Canada**
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- **Transport Canada**
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Thank you!

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