

Toy Safety

October 2009

Following the recommendation of the November 2007 TEC meeting, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the European Commission's Directorates General for Enterprise (DG Enterprise) and Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) participate in a Toy Safety Working Group, set up in May 2008. The Working Group met three times by videoconference in 2009, and members maintained close contact between meetings. This working group functions as a focal point to discuss the safety of imported products. Over the past six months, the working group has discussed issues arising from our new legal frameworks, aiming to reach common approaches to problems when possible. Special attention has been paid to the format and content of product traceability labels and of declarations of conformity; new standards for magnetic toys; testing methods for phthalates and heavy elements in toys and children's books; and standardisation of various children's products (other than toys). The working group will continue to exchange information on implementation of the toy safety and other children's product safety legislation in the United States and the EU, and on our respective enforcement activities, and will explore possible convergence in specific areas. CPSC and DG SANCO are discussing a possible meeting in China in Spring 2010, to build upon the successful joint product safety outreach effort in China in September 2008.

December 2008

Following the recommendation contained in the above report, the CPSC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry (DG ENTR) and Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) set up a Toy Safety Working Group as a focal point to discuss toy import safety related matters. The Working Group has met three times, on May 29, July 22, and November 12, 2008.

In September 2008, the CPSC and DG SANCO and DG ENTR conducted a series of joint outreach seminars in China on U.S. and EU safety requirements for clothing, toys, and electrical products with a view to promoting compliance with the applicable safety requirements. This joint initiative was followed by a high-level trilateral meeting hosted by Commissioner Kuneva in Brussels in November to continue the common agenda.