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CHILDREN'S TOYS (SAFETY REQUIREMENTS) Part 1—GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
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Australian Consumers Association
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations
Australian Retailers Association
Confederation of Australian Industry
Country Women's Association of Australia
Department of Business and Consumer Affairs
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Department of Health
Department of Public and Consumer Affairs, S.A.
Department of Industrial Relations and Technology
Department of Science and the Environment
Health Commission of New South Wales
Health Commission of Victoria
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Vic.
National Safety Council of Australia (Victorian Division)
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**CHILDREN'S TOYS
(SAFETY REQUIREMENTS)**

**Part 1
GENERAL SAFETY
REQUIREMENTS**

AS 1647, Part 1—1980

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PREFACE

This standard, prepared by the Association's Committee on Safety of Children's Toys, relates to the general safety requirements of children's toys. It constitutes the first part of a four-part standard; as it makes cross-reference to each of the other parts, it essentially forms the revision of AS 1647—1974, Children's Toys and Playthings (Safety Requirements).

In preparing this standard, the committee took into account the work of the British Standards Institution and the Toy Manufacturers of America Inc, as well as the following documents:

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission Regulations
United States Voluntary Product Standard PS 72-76
Canadian Government Regulations.

This standard makes reference to the following standards:

AS 1647 Children's Toys (Safety Requirements)
Part 2—Constructional Requirements*
Part 3—Toxicological Requirements
Part 4—Flammability Requirements

Reference is also made to—

AS 1900 Children's Swimming Instruction Aids, and Flotation Toys and Rings
AS 1924 Playground Equipment for Parks, Schools and Domestic Use
AS 1927 Pedal Bicycles

*In course of preparation.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard
for
CHILDREN'S TOYS
(SAFETY REQUIREMENTS)**

PART 1—GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

FOREWORD

In revising AS 1647—1974, Children's Toys and Playthings (Safety Requirements), it was felt that the most comprehensive manner in which this complex topic could be handled would be to prepare a number of documents each of which related to a specific feature of the toy. The topic was considered complex not only because the standard would need to take into account the vast variety of toys that were available on the market, but also because each variety of toy incorporates its own specific hazard. Further, the topic was considered complex because the amount of research data available was minimal.

In light of these problems, the standard has been prepared in four Parts, wherein Part 1 relates to the general requirements which are common to all toys, and Parts 2 to 4 relate to constructional, toxicological and flammability requirements which are specific hazards of toys. Essentially, Part 1, General Safety Requirements, unites the various Parts of the standard by making a cross-reference to each of the other Parts. As such, in order for a toy to comply with this standard, the toy must satisfy all the relevant requirements specified in each of the Parts. Although the format of the standard is such as to allow easy reference to a specific hazard, it should be borne in mind that Part 1 specifies requirements common to all toys, and as such, Part 1 must always be read in conjunction with any one or all of the other Parts.

The purpose of this standard is to establish safety requirements for children's toys such that the more obvious hazards associated with them will be eliminated. This Part of the standard does not cover performance requirements other than from a safety point of view.

Although it is considered that this Part of the standard covers most of the common hazards, including constructional, toxicological and flammability, associated with toys, it should be borne in mind that the standard cannot eliminate all possible hazards from toys and choice of a suitable toy for a particular child remains the responsibility of the purchaser. In the selection of a toy, it is important that the age of the child and the nature and stage of his or her mental and physical development be considered. Care should also be exercised to ensure that toys which are intended for use by older children do not fall into the hands of much younger children who may not appreciate the consequences of incorrect use, or that children do not play with defective or damaged toys, or that the toys are not used in ways for which they were not intended.

SPECIFICATION

1 SCOPE. This standard specifies general safety, packaging and labelling requirements for toys.

2 APPLICATION. This standard applies to all toys, except the following:

- (a) Bicycles covered by AS 1927; *however*, bicycles having a wheel base of less than 640 mm which are outside the ambit of AS 1927 are covered by this standard.
- (b) Christmas decorations.
- (c) Compressed gas weapons.
- (d) Fireworks.
- (e) Flotation aids covered by AS 1900.
- (f) Hobby and craft items in which the finished item is not primarily used as a plaything for children.
- (g) Model kits in which the finished item is not primarily used as a plaything for children.
- (h) Playground equipment covered by AS 1924.
- (j) Powered models of aircraft, rockets, boats and land vehicles; *however*, counterparts or variations of those powered models that are toys are covered by this standard.
- (k) Sporting goods including darts, camping goods, athletic equipment, musical instruments and furniture; *however*, counterparts that are toys are covered by this standard.

3 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

Toy means an object or a number of objects manufactured and designed and/or labelled and/or marketed as a plaything for a child or children up to the age of 14 years.

Intended means designed, labelled or marketed.

4 MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS. Toys shall be made from new material or reprocessed material, such as reprocessed plastics, foam scrap, fibrous scrap from textile producers or fabric trimmings from garment manufacturers, that has been so treated such that the reprocessed material would not present any hazard.

5 CONSTRUCTIONAL, TOXICOLOGICAL AND FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS.

5.1 Constructional Requirements. The construction of toys shall comply with AS 1647, Part 2.

5.2 Toxicological Requirements. The toxicology of toys shall comply with AS 1647, Part 3.

5.3 Flammability Requirements. The flammability of toys shall comply with AS 1647, Part 4.

6 PACKAGING.

6.1 Flexible Plastics Film for Wrapping. Flexible plastics film used to wrap a toy or package containing a toy shall have a thickness of 38 μm or more.

6.2 Flexible Plastics Film in the Form of Bags. Flexible plastics film in the form of a bag used to

package a toy shall have a minimum thickness of either—

(a) 30 μm if the bag—

(i) has an opening that is less than 350 mm in circumference and less than 130 mm in depth, both dimensions being measured after the bag has been stretched to its fullest extent;

OR

(ii) is perforated with round holes of at least 5 mm in diameter, or other shaped holes of equivalent area, such that there shall be no area without at least one hole which is not covered by a square template measuring 150 mm along each side, when the whole of the template is placed on the bag;

OR

(b) 38 μm if the bag carries a legible cautionary label similar to the following:

WARNING

TO AVOID DANGER OF SUFFOCATION
TO BABIES AND CHILDREN DISPOSE
OF THIS BAG IMMEDIATELY

NOTES:

1. Since the wording on the cautionary label is only an example, it is permissible to use other words, e.g. 'CAUTION' in place of 'WARNING'.

2. In addition to the above-noted information on the cautionary label, the following or similar statement may be included:

'Tie into knots or shred plastics before placing into rubbish bin. Do not burn plastics.'

6.3 Shrink Film. Shrink film used to package a toy shall—

(a) have a film thickness of 19 μm or more; and

(b) not be capable of being formed into a bag having an opening with a circumference of 350 mm or more and a depth of 130 mm or more, both dimensions being measured after the bag has been stretched to its fullest extent, when the shrink film is removed from the package.

6.4 Packages Having Fasteners. Packages that are intended to be opened by the consumer shall—

(a) be so constructed as to minimize the hazards from fasteners during the opening process; and

(b) not contain common pins to position the toy within the package.

7 LABELLING.

7.1 General. Each toy or package containing one or more toys shall be legibly labelled with either—

(a) the manufacturer's name, trademark or packaging number, if the toy or toys were manufactured in Australia; or

(b) the name of the distributor, and the country in which the toy or toys were manufactured, if the toy or toys were not manufactured in Australia.

The requirements of (a) or (b) do not apply to marbles or balloons that are not packaged.

NOTE: As an example, labelling of the toy can be achieved either by permanent means such as painting, engraving or embossing, or by temporary means such as adhesive label or swing tag.