

Fact Sheet 1: Regulations

1920s: Phthalates are introduced.

1931: Plasticizer poly vinyl chloride (PVC) industry booms, with commercial availability of PVC and development of di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP).

1999: European Union (EU) puts restrictions on sale of toys and childcare articles made of soft PVC containing di-n-butyl phthalate (DBP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), DEHP, diisononyl phthalate (DINP), diisodecyl phthalate (DIDP) and di-n-octyl phthalate (DNoP). These toys and articles are those that are intended to be placed in mouth by children under three years of age. (<http://europa.eu/>)

1999: Standard (IS 9873 Part 2) on safety requirements for toys, specifically concerning flammability requirements, is adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). (<http://www.bis.org.in/>)

1999: Standard (IS 9873 Part 3) on safety requirements for toys, concerning migration of certain elements, is adopted by BIS. (<http://www.bis.org.in/>)

2000: Anti-dumping investigation by Indian authorities finds no evidence of injury to domestic industry due to alleged dumping of toys from China, including mechanical and battery-operated toys.

2001: Standard (IS 9873 Part 1) on safety requirements for toys, concerning mechanical and physical properties, is adopted by BIS. (<http://www.bis.org.in/>)

2007: US-based toy maker Mattel, Inc. is forced to recall millions of its toys following concerns over lead paint and tiny magnets.

2007: Mumbai-based NGO files public interest litigation in Bombay High Court seeking a ban on import of Chinese toys due to toxicity.

2008: US Congress passes Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, placing restrictions on use of both groups of phthalate compounds in toys and childcare articles starting February 2009. (<http://www.cpsc.gov/>)

2008: BIS begins review of existing toy safety standards IS 9873 (Parts 1-3).

January 2009: India prohibits import of Chinese toys, including wheeled toys and dolls, for six months. (<http://dgft.delhi.nic.in/>)

March 2009: India modifies prohibition on Chinese toys, permitting imports which meet international and domestic quality standards on mechanical and physical properties, flammability and migration of heavy metals. (<http://dgft.delhi.nic.in/>)

July 2009: India extends prohibition to all imported toys till January 23. (<http://dgft.delhi.nic.in/>)