

# **BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **GUIDANCE LEAFLET**

### **SELLING SAFE PRAMS AND PUSHCHAIRS**

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#### **SELLING NEW AND SECOND-HAND PRAMS AND PUSHCHAIRS THE LAW**

All prams and pushchairs, both new and second-hand, must comply with British Standard 7409. Prams and pushchairs are defined as any wheeled vehicle designed for the transport of one or more infants either seated or reclined.

#### **HOW CAN I TELL IF MY PRAMS AND PUSHCHAIRS COMPLY?**

The British Standard requires that a label is permanently attached to the pram or pushchair stating that it complies to the standard, so look for the label stating that it complies with BS 7409. These labels are usually found on the frame or seat covering.

#### **SECOND-HAND PRAMS AND PUSHCHAIRS**

If prams and pushchairs have been damaged or modified they may no longer meet the requirements of the standard. The only way to be absolutely certain is to have the item tested by a laboratory. However there are some things you can look out for, check the following:

- the presence of any sharp edges or points
- main lock and secondary lock, do they both engage and work properly?
- safety harness, is it in good condition? Make sure the harness is secure and the straps are not frayed
- wheel security and heavy wear on the edges of wheels
- parking brake, does it work, both forwards, backwards and does it engage properly?
- general stability in all directions, forwards, backwards and sideways left and right
- look for signs that tubes or linkages have not been bent by continual heavy impact with kerbs or stairs
- look out for finger entrapments, make sure that exposed tubes still have some means of preventing fingers getting trapped
- make sure the pram or pushchair is generally in good condition.

#### **WHAT ABOUT FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS?**

All upholstered prams and pushchairs (new and second-hand) have had to comply since 1990 with flammability requirements contained in the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. New prams and pushchairs also have to carry permanent labels giving information about how they comply with the regulations. If second-hand items do not have a permanent label with the words "Carelessness Causes Fire" then it is unlikely to comply.

#### **OTHER CHILDRENS PRODUCTS**

We also enforce and can provide guidance on the safety of other products such as Toys, bicycles and other items. Please contact us for further information.

**For further information contact the Environmental Health Department of Ballymena Borough Council on 028 2566 0300**