

BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL

GUIDANCE LEAFLET

SELLING SAFE TOYS

A TOY IS DEFINED AS:

"Any product or material designed or clearly intended for use in play by a child of less than 14 years of age".

SAFETY

Toys must satisfy the essential safety requirements - these relate to general principles of design and construction, physical and mechanical properties, flammability, chemical properties, electrical properties, hygiene and radioactivity.

LABELLING

All toys which you supply in the course of a business must be marked with:

- the name and address of the manufacturer or importer.
- the CE mark.

The CE mark is a declaration by the manufacturer or importer that the toy is safe.

These marks must be on the toy or it's packaging and be permanent and easy to read.

On small toys these marks may be on:

- a label attached to the toy.
- an accompanying leaflet.
- an associated display box.

WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Some toys must come with warnings and instructions about precautions needed to be taken for safe use, these include:

- toys which are not suitable for children under 3 and the reason why e.g. choking hazard.
- details required for correct assembly and use e.g. swings and slides.
- those which require adult supervision or only to be used by children over a certain age.
- toys such as skateboards or skates which require protective equipment.
- toys for use in the water such as rubber rings.

SECOND-HAND TOYS

Toys which are second hand do not need to be CE marked but still need to be up to legal standards. We would therefore advise that traders only sell second hand toys which are CE marked, contain any relevant instructions or warnings and have been checked for any obvious faults, unless you are an expert in toy safety requirements.

KEEPING WITHIN THE LAW

If you sell toys which are incorrectly marked or unsafe you will be breaking the law and may be prosecuted. You could be fined £5000 and imprisoned for six months.

OTHER CHILDRENS PRODUCTS

We also enforce and can provide guidance on the safety of other products such as: prams, pushchairs, clothing, beds, bicycles and other items. Please contact us for more information.

For further information contact the Environmental Health Department Of Ballymena Borough Council on 028 256 0300.