STC

Your Global Testing, Inspection & Certification Partner

STC Technical Intelligence

STC Technical Intelligence 技術智匯

Issue 2026/09

A | Toys & Children's Products

A.1 The Australia Government Publishes Consumer Goods (Aquatic Toys) Safety Standard 2026

On 25 June 2026, Australia Government published the Consumer Goods (Aquatic Toys) Safety Standard 2026. The Safety Standard is applicable to aquatic toys. The followings products are not applicable to this Safety Standard:

- Beach balls
- Surfboards
- Bodyboards
- Kickboards
- Inflatable air beds
- Inflatable boats that are not toys or that by virtue of their size and design are intended for use in deep water

An aquatic toy means a toy that is designed:

- to bear the mass of a child under the age of 14; and
- for use in play in shallow water by a child.
- whether or not it is inflatable and whether or not it is designed to be worn or otherwise attached to the body.

After 26 June 2028, an aquatic toy must comply with the requirements of the AS/NZS ISO 8124.1 Clause 4.20 and Annex B.2.6 of a relevant version or ISO 8124.1 Clause 4.20 and Annex B.2.6 of a relevant version.

In addition, an aquatic toy shall contain carry the warning, which is in English, clearly legible, visible and indelible.

A relevant version of the standard is:

- the standard as in force or existing at the time this standard commences until 2 years and 6 months after the publication date of the first updated version of that standard; and
- an updated version of that standard, from 6 months after the publication date of that updated version until 2 years and 6 months after the publication date of the next updated version.

The previous Consumer Goods (Aquatic Toys) Safety Standard 2020 shall be repealed.

Notes:

- AS/NZS ISO 8124.1 Safety of toys — Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties.
- ISO 8124-1 Safety of toys — Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties.

A | Toys & Children's Products

A.2 Multiple Countries Have Issued a Series of Safety Alerts and Recall Notices for Squishy Stress-relief Toys

Recently, squishy stress-relief toys have gone viral globally, driven by their distinctive texture and the thrill of opening blind boxes, making them a phenomenon. However, major mainstream markets have successively issued safety alerts and even recall notices for multiple squishy stress-relief toys:

Market	Date	Reference No.		Measure Taken
EU	26/07/24	SR/02073/26	Excess concentration of benzene	Stop of sales; recall of the product from end users
	26/08/07	SR/02153/26	Excess concentration of DEHP, DBP and SCCPs	Withdrawal of the product from the market
	26/08/14	SR/02206/26	Choking hazard	Ban product marketing
UK	26/06/25	2606-0196	Excess concentration of benzene	Recall products from end users
	26/08/10	2607-0173	Microbiological and choking hazard	Import rejected at border
	26/08/10	2605-0199	Microbiological hazard	Destruction of the product and Import rejected at border
	26/08/14	2608-0086	Choking hazard	Recall products from end users
US	26/08/05	--	• Physical risk after tearing; • Severe burn risk after being heated; • Chemical risks (lead, phthalates, etc.); • Missing required warnings on labels	CPSC issued a safety alert and, in coordination with CBP, identified 55 shipments of violative squishy toys at ports, rejected 355,683 units, and issued notices of violation to companies responsible for importing or selling noncompliant products
China	26/03/02	--	Excessive TVOC	Reported by CCTV News

(Only a selection of recall cases is listed here.)

The main sources of compliance risk for squishy stress-relief toys include:

- **Chemical risks**
  - substances such as lead, phthalates, short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), benzene, and total Chemical volatile organic compounds (TVOC) are prone to exceeding permissible limits.
- **Microbiological risks**
  - Aerobic microorganisms, yeasts, and molds in the filling liquid frequently exceed safe levels.

A | Toys & Children's Products

A.2 Multiple Countries Have Issued a Series of Safety Alerts and Recall Notices for Squishy Stress-relief Toys

- **Physical risks**
  - Exposure to direct sunlight, high temperatures inside vehicles, or microwave heating may cause the toys to burst, posing a risk of burns;
  - After the product ruptures, children may ingest the water beads, which can expand inside the body and lead to choking or intestinal blockage;
  - Other small parts released upon rupture also present a choking hazard to children.
- **Labelling and other compliance risks**
  - Lack of required warnings, age grading, tracking information, or manufacturer identification;
  - Lack of required testing and certification documentation for children's products.

Currently, safety regulations for children's toys across major global markets are becoming increasingly stringent. For manufacturers and exporters of squishy products, a comprehensive review of their product compliance systems and strict alignment with the technical regulations and testing standards of each target market have become a core issue for mitigating trade risks and securing market access.

B | Textiles & Furniture

B.1 Understanding 16 CFR 1630 & 1631: Standards for Surface Flammability of Carpets and Rugs

Beginning 8 July 2026, CPSC eFiling becomes mandatory. Electronic filing needs to be completed in advance for all imported carpets and rugs, including cross-border e-commerce small parcels and duty-exempt low-value shipments under US$ 800.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has established flammability requirements for all types of carpets and rugs entering the U.S. market. Whether a large carpet laid in a living room or a small rug placed in an entryway, the product must pass the flammability testing under 16 CFR 1630 & 1631. Once the test results meet the requirements, a complete and compliant General Certificate of Conformity (GCC) must be issued based on the test report. Before shipment, the importer or freight forwarder must enter the seven GCC data elements into the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system to complete eFiling.

Scope of the Standards:

The standards apply to carpets and rugs used as floor coverings in homes, offices, or other places where people gather or reside. Antique carpets and rugs, and animal-skin rugs, are excluded from the testing scope.

- 16 CFR 1630 - Standard for the Surface Flammability of Carpets and Rugs

  Applies to carpets and rugs with any dimension greater than 1.83 m (6 ft) and a surface area greater than 2.23 m^2 (24 ft^2).

- 16 CFR 1631 - Standard for the Surface Flammability of Small Carpets and Rugs

  Applies to carpets and rugs with any dimension less than or equal to 1.83 m (6 ft) and a surface area less than or equal to 2.23 m^2 (24 ft^2).

Note: Resilient floor coverings such as linoleum, asphalt tile, and vinyl tile are not included.

Standard Test Method:

The standards provide a test method for determining the surface flammability of carpets and rugs when exposed to a standard small ignition source under strictly draft-protected conditions.

Specimen Preparation

Prepare a representative sample of material large enough to cut eight test specimens, each measuring 22.86 × 22.86 cm (9 × 9 in). The specimen surfaces must be free of creases, wrinkles, delamination, or other distortion. The specimens should include the most flammable portions. Remove all loose threads left from specimen preparation and any material that may have become embedded in the pile during handling. Place the specimens in a drying oven at 105°C (221°F) for 2 hours.

Test Procedure

- Place the specimen in the center of the floor of the test chamber, surface side up, and keep it level and flat. Place the flattening frame over the specimen, then position a standard ignition source (a methenamine tablet) on the flat side of the frame, aligned with the center of its 20.32 cm (8 in) diameter opening.
- Carefully ignite the tablet by touching its top with a lighted match or a similar ignition device.

  Continue the test until one of the following occurs:

  - Flaming or glowing on the specimen ceases, or the specimen is no longer smoldering.
  - Flaming or smoldering spreads to within 2.54 cm (1 in) of the edge of the opening in the flattening frame.
- The sample is considered to pass the regulation if, for at least seven of the eight specimens, the charred area does not extend at any point to within 2.54 cm (1 in) of the edge of the opening in the flattening frame.

B | Textiles & Furniture

B.1 Understanding 16 CFR 1630 & 1631: Standards for Surface Flammability of Carpets and Rugs

Labelling Requirements:

- If a carpet or rug has been treated with a flame retardant, or is made from fibers that have been treated with a flame retardant, it should be marked with the letter "T" on its surface in accordance with CPSC requirements.
- For small carpets and rugs covered by 16 CFR Part 1631, if the product does not meet the flammability test standard, it must be permanently labeled with the following statement before being placed on the market:

  FLAMMABLE (FAILS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STANDARD FF 2-70): SHOULD NOT BE USED NEAR SOURCES OF IGNITION.

C | Consumer Products & Cosmetics

C.1 U.S. CPSC eFiling Officially Takes Effect

eFiling, jointly launched by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), requires importers to electronically submit specific certificate compliance data - either a CPC or a GCC certificate, as applicable - to CBP at the time of product entry.

Implementation:

CPSC eFiling has been officially in effect since 8 July 2026. For FTZ (Foreign Trade Zone), the eFiling implementation deadline has been extended to 8 January 2027.

On the same day, CBP issued an official announcement (CSMS # 69177694), through which CPSC clarified that it does not require the customs system to block entry applications for products missing eFiling data. However, this flexible implementation does not relieve importers of their obligations; instead, it transfers enforcement risk to a post-entry review stage. U.S. importers are still legally responsible for certifying the relevant imported products.

Scope of Regulated Products:

- Products imported into the U.S. in finished form;
- Products subject to CPSC jurisdiction that require a CPC or GCC certificate;
- Products intended for consumption, warehousing, or distribution in commercial channels.

Two Submission Options:

- **Full PGA Data Set:** The importer provides all product certificate information to the customs broker, who then submits it in the ACE CBP system. Suitable for products with small volumes and occasional imports.
- **Reference PGA Data Set:** The importer certifies the product's certificate information in the CPSC's Product Registry system and provides the three certificate identifiers to the broker, who then references these identifiers in the ACE CBP system for filing. Suitable for products with large volumes and frequent imports.

Procedure for Certifying Product Information in the CPSC Product Registry System / eFiling:

Steps	Remarks
① The U.S. importer registers a business account	Only U.S.-based importers can register an account on their own. Registration link:https://www.cpsc.gov/eFiling-CPSC-Product-Registry Login link:https://efiling.saferproducts.gov/efiling
② Create a product collection	After creating a product collection, you can invite manufacturers, third-party testing laboratories, customs brokers, etc., as collection users to register their accounts and join the collection.
③ Upload product information by adding products within the product collection	Both the importer and collection users can add product information. Three ways to upload product information: • Online entry for individual product information; • Bulk import of product information via CSV file; • Transmission of product information via API.
④ Certify the product information	The importer may authorize other collection users to certify, but the importer remains the legally responsible party for certification.
⑤ Provide the three certificate identifiers of the product to the customs broker for customs clearance	The three certificate identifiers (used together to uniquely locate the product certificate in the system): • Certifier ID: Unique identifier for the importer in the system. • Product ID: Unique identifier for the product within a product collection, which can be UPC, SKU, etc. • Version ID: Unique identifier for the latest certificate version of the product.

STC provides professional one-stop services, including product standard assessment, testing, and eFiling.

C | Consumer Products & Cosmetics

C.2 Essential Guide to the EU New Packaging Regulation PPWR

On 22 January 2025, the Official Journal of the European Union published the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation ((EU) 2025/40, hereinafter referred to as PPWR), which fully replaces the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC, PPWD) that had been in effect for nearly 30 years. Fully applicable from 12 August 2026, the PPWR introduces new requirements concerning PFAS, heavy metals, Declaration of Conformity (DoC), operators and labelling, EPR registration, and reusable packaging systems, aiming to enhance the sustainability and traceability of packaging.

Heavy Metals and PFAS Requirements:

- Heavy Metal Limits

  The total content of lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), and hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) shall not exceed 100 mg/kg.

- PFAS Restrictions

  Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are prohibited in food contact packaging if they exceed the following specific limits: 25 ppb for any individual non-polymeric PFAS, 250 ppb for the sum of non-polymeric PFAS; 50 ppm for total fluorine (F) content (including polymeric PFAS). Packaging with a total fluorine content or organic fluorine content below 50 mg/kg (0.005%) is considered compliant with the PFAS requirements (refer to Guidelines C(2026) 2151 and the Q&A document (FAQ)).

EU Declaration of Conformity (DoC):

- Starting from 12 August 2026, each type of packaging placed on the EU market must be accompanied by a formal EU Declaration of Conformity (DoC).
- The manufacturer is responsible for drafting and issuing the DoC. Importers must ensure compliance by obtaining and verifying these documents for each batch of goods.
- The DoC must be supported by technical documentation, including design specifications, test results, and recyclability assessments. This documentation must be kept for 5 years (for single-use packaging) and 10 years (for reusable packaging).

Manufacturer and Importer Labelling:

- To ensure traceability and accountability, the PPWR requires clear identification of the relevant economic operators.
- Packaging must bear the name, registered trade name or trademark, postal address, and electronic contact address of the manufacturer and, where applicable, the importer.

EPR Registration in Each Member State:

- Under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), producers must register in each Member State where the packaging is first made available. If the producer does not have an establishment in the Member State where the products are sold, an Authorised Representative (AR) may be required to fulfil their EPR obligations.

Requirements for Reusable Systems:

- Starting from 12 August 2026, any operator placing reusable packaging on the market must ensure that an active system is in place for collection, reprocessing, and redistribution. This includes providing clear instructions to consumers, designated collection points, and established logistics to ensure that packaging genuinely returns to the cycle.

For more details, please refer to the original regulation text, as well as Guidelines C(2026) 2151 and the Q&A document (FAQ).

C | Consumer Products & Cosmetics

C.3 Mandatory National Standard General Safety Requirements for Cosmetics Officially Released

On 6 August 2026, the State Administration for Market Regulation (Standardisation Administration of China) approved and issued the mandatory national standard General Safety Requirements for Cosmetics (GB 7916-2026). Drafted under the organisation of the National Medical Products Administration, this standard shall come into force officially on 1 January 2028. The Hygienic Standard for Cosmetics issued in 1987 shall be repealed simultaneously.

Standard Framework and Major Revisions:

The standard specifies general safety requirements for cosmetics, raw-material requirements and product requirements. It also covers packaging materials and carriers, labelling, storage and transportation, as well as implementation requirements for the standard.

Three Major Revision Highlights:

- A complete set of terms and definitions for cosmetics, cosmetic raw materials and other items have been newly added.
- General safety requirements have been refined, with new chapters on storage-transportation and standard implementation included.
- Lists of prohibited substances and prohibited animal- and plant-derived substances in cosmetics have been updated.

Formulated in accordance with the *Regulations on the Supervision and Administration of Cosmetics*, this standard integrates mature technical requirements accumulated from years of supervision. It is consistent with other domestic national standards and international standards. As a fundamental mandatory safety standard for cosmetics production and business operations within China, it marks China's upgrade from the "hygiene-oriented standard" to a "safety-oriented standard" for cosmetics standards. It safeguards consumers' safety in cosmetic use and boosts high-quality development of the industry.

With Regard to Firmly Safeguarding the Bottom-line Safety of Cosmetics, the Standard Sets Forth Provisions in Four Key Aspects:

- Under the existing regulatory framework for cosmetics, scattered technical requirements such as those in the Technical Safety Specification for Cosmetics are organically integrated and refined. Full-chain safety requirements for cosmetics covering raw materials to finished products are stipulated in the form of a mandatory national standard.
- Terms and definitions related to cosmetics are comprehensively standardized, including prohibited substances, restricted raw materials, permitted raw materials such as sun-screening agents and colourants, and packaging materials. The connotation and scope of cosmetics quality-safety management are defined in a more scientific manner.
- Stricter technical criteria are established for children's cosmetics. The limit for total bacterial colonies for children's cosmetics, as well as cosmetics applied to periorbital skin, eyelashes and lip mucosa, is ten-fold stricter than that for ordinary products. Strict control is imposed on high-risk products.
- Risk substances are stringently controlled. Strict limits are set for harmful substances including mercury, lead, arsenic and cadmium. The list of prohibited substances in cosmetics has also been comprehensively revised and standardized. Meanwhile, room is reserved for dynamic adjustment of the prohibited-substance list in light of advances in scientific research. It is clarified that where the National Medical Products Administration of the State Council releases announcements to update the prohibitedsubstance list and relevant requirements, the contents of this list shall be subject to the updated announcements.

D | Food

D.1 EU Updates Food Contaminant Regulation (EU) 2023/915 — New Limits for THC, 3-MCPD, and Furans

The European Commission has recently published three major regulations amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 regarding maximum levels for key contaminants in food products:

- Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1825: Updates maximum limits for 3-MCPD, 3-MCPD fatty acid esters, and glycidyl fatty acid esters across baby foods, oils, and compound foods.
- Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1828: Sets maximum limits and mandatory labelling requirements for Δ^9-THC equivalents in hemp leaves for infusion and ready-to-drink hemp leaf beverages.
- Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1890: Establishes maximum limits for the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran in processed cereal-based foods and baby foods.

3-MCPD & Glycidyl Esters — EU 2026/1825

Highlights:

- Baby Foods & Processed Cereal-Based Foods: Sets explicit maximum levels for baby food and processed cereal-based food starting 1 January 2027.
- Lowered Raw Material Limits: Reduces maximum limits for vegetable and marine oils destined for baby food production starting 1 January 2027.
- Compound Foods (>5% Fat): Standardizes rules for compound foods with added vegetable/fish/marine oils based on declared or analyzed fat content.
- Expanded Testing Scope: Glycidyl fatty acid ester compliance now explicitly covers 3-MBPD and 3-MIPD fatty acid esters due to analytical conversions in indirect testing methods.
- Olive Oils Clarification: Clarifies that limits for vegetable oils apply to refined olive oil and pomace olive oil, while virgin olive oils remain exempt.
- Temporary Exemption: Pre-fried and fried coated meat and fish are temporarily excluded from 3-MCPD limits pending further investigation (expected by 2027).

Δ^9 -THC in Hemp Leaves & Infusions — EU 2026/1828

Highlights:

- Specific Maximum Levels: Establishes limits for total Δ^9 -THC equivalents (Δ^9 -THC + Δ^9 -THCA) in hemp leaves for water infusion and ready-to-drink herbal infusions.
- Mandatory Labelling Requirements: Leaves intended for water infusion must feature three specific warnings in the principal field of vision:
  - "Only to be used for water infusion (preparation of a herbal infusion)."
  - "Shall not be consumed by infants and young children."
  - "No fatty ingredients, such as cream or milk, shall be added during steeping."

D | Food

D.1 EU Updates Food Contaminant Regulation (EU) 2023/915 — New Limits for THC, 3-MCPD, and Furans

Furans & Methylfurans in Baby Foods — EU 2026/1890

Highlights:

- New Process Contaminant Limits: Regulates the sum of furan, 2-methylfuran, and 3-methylfuran in baby foods and processed cereal-based foods.
- Calculation Method: Levels are calculated using lower-bound concentrations and applying a 0.83 conversion factor for 2-methylfuran and 3-methylfuran.

For full legal details, please refer to the official EUR-Lex publications:

1. Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1890 (furan and methylfurans):

   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32026R1828

2. Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1828 (THC in hemp leaves and infusions):

   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202601890

3. Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1825 (3-MCPD and glycidyl esters):

   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32026R1825

4. Base Regulation (EU) 2023/915 (general contaminant framework):

   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R0915

E | Electronic and Electrical Products

E.1 EMSD of HKSAR Has Officially Released First Batch of 50 National Standards in Household Appliance Sector that Achieve Equivalent Mutual Recognition with IEC International Standards

Shenzhen Customs announced on 26 August 2026 that to advance rule alignment between Shenzhen and Hong Kong and further eliminate technical standard barriers for mainland household electrical appliances entering the Hong Kong market, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) of the Hong Kong SAR Government officially released the first batch of 50 national standards in the household appliance sector that achieve equivalent mutual recognition with IEC international standards on the same day, following joint collaboration between Shenzhen Customs, EMSD and the Qianhai AdSministration of Shenzhen Municipality.

In recent years, as economic and trade exchanges between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong have grown increasingly close, Hong Kong consumers' recognition of mainland household appliances has continued to rise. On social platforms, many Hong Kong travelers share guides about enjoying "state subsidies" and "departure tax refunds" when purchasing small household appliances in Shenzhen, making cost-effective mainland small home appliances highly popular in Hong Kong. However, previously, due to the unclear equivalence relationship between mainland national standards and the IEC international standards adopted in Hong Kong, mainland household appliances entering Hong Kong were required to undergo additional IEC standard testing and certification.

To address the challenge of differing standards across the two regions, Shenzhen Customs, in conjunction with EMSD and the Qianhai Administration of Shenzhen Municipality, launched in-depth cooperation starting from rule alignment. On 27 April 2025, the three parties jointly signed the Cooperation Arrangement for Co-building the National-level Import and Export Commodity Quality Safety Risk Assessment Center (Shenzhen), clarifying coordinated efforts in quality supervision, risk monitoring and technical standard development for import and export products in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. On this basis, the three parties organized technical experts to conduct item-by-item comparison and repeated verification of the applicable safety technical standards for products in Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and finally confirmed the first batch of 50 national standards that are mutually recognized as equivalent to the IEC international standards adopted in Hong Kong.

After this mutual recognition, relevant mainland household appliances that meet national standards only need to be equipped with Hong Kong-compliant plugs, and do not need to undergo re-testing and re-certification in accordance with IEC standards, enabling seamless access to the Hong Kong market.

Head of Asia-Pacific Sales of one household appliance enterprise, stated: "All our high-speed hair dryers have now passed national standard testing, and can be exported to Hong Kong without additional repeated testing. This has greatly shortened the time-to-market and reduced costs, making order growth much smoother."

Original Link: https://news.qq.com/rain/a/20260826A0BTH100

STC Technical Intelligence

www.stc.group

Headquarters - Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre
10 Dai Wang Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, N.T., Hong Kong
enquiry@stc.group

Hong Kong | Guangdong | Shanghai | Changzhou | Vietnam | Japan | USA | Germany