



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



15 DEC 2015

FDA ADVISORY
No. **2015-094**

SUBJECT : Reminders to the Public on the Right Selection of Toy Products for this Christmas Season

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advises the general public, especially the parents, to be more careful and critical in choosing toy products this Christmas season.

Toy products play a major role in a child's development. As such, their safety is a key priority and must be ensured to protect the public health particularly those of the Filipino children. This Christmas season, all consumers are enjoined to follow these reminders:

1. **Be sure to read the labels found on toys.** Be aware of safety recommendations and take them seriously. Check the label for the name, address and License to Operate number (LTO No.) of the local company responsible for placing the toy product in the market.



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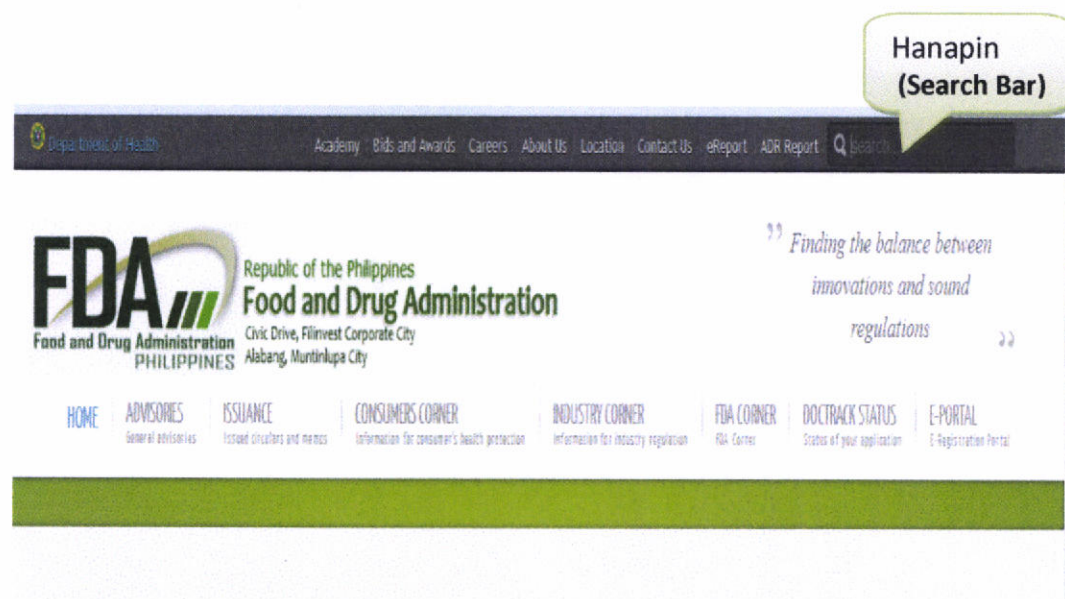
2. **Choose toys suitable for the child's age, abilities and skill level.** Toys that are not intended for a child's specific age group may pose safety hazards. Be sure to read and follow the age recommendation particularly the "0 to 3" symbol and the words "not suitable for children under 36 months" accompanied by the indication of the hazard. Be reminded that this symbol is a warning and not a recommendation.



3. **Do not give toys with small parts to children under the age of 3 years**, as children have a tendency to put toys in their mouths and small parts with no pointed edges can present a choking hazard. Make sure toys' small parts such as eyes and noses are tightly secured.
4. **Follow the instructions carefully for proper toy assembly and use.** Keep the instructions and information that are packaged with the toy in a safe place.
5. **Always buy toys from reputable retailers/outlets.**
6. **Supervise the children as they play.** Make sure that all toys are played with as intended and are suitable for the age and abilities of the children.
7. **Periodically examine toys for breakage or wear that could cause injury or other risk to the health and safety of the child.** Discard broken toys immediately.
8. **Ensure that any toys intended for older children are kept well out of reach of children under 36 months.** These toys may contain small parts which can pose as choking hazards.
9. **Remove and discard all packaging materials such as plastic bags, cardboard, paper and plastic windows.** If possible, recycle the packaging materials.
10. **Teach your children to put away their toys after they play with them to avoid accidents.**
11. **Contact the retailer/outlet where you purchased the toy or the Food and Drug Administration if you or your child encounter a safety problem associated with it.** To make a report to FDA, click *eReport* in the upper-right corner of the home page and provide all requested information



12. Do not hesitate to browse the FDA website (<http://www.fda.gov.ph>) wherein consumers can keep abreast with toy-related news. The FDA website also contains a list of all licensed toy companies here in the Philippines as well as a list of all notified toy products. Consumers may check whether the toy product he/she wishes to purchase or has already purchased is notified with FDA by making use of the **Search Tab** in the upper right corner of the home page.



The FDA warns all companies engaged in the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, sale, offer for sale and transfer of unregistered/unnotified and adulterated toy products that these activities are prohibited by virtue of Republic Act No. 9711, otherwise known as the Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009. Thus, companies caught engaging in these acts shall be subject to an administrative fine in such amount as deemed reasonable, which shall in no case be less than fifty thousand pesos

(₱50,000.00) nor more than five hundred thousand pesos (₱500,000.00) depending on the gravity of the offense, and the additional administrative fine of not more than one thousand pesos (₱1,000.00) for each day of continuing violation

For additional information and inquiries, consumers may send an e-mail to info@fda.gov.ph. Everyone is encouraged to report to FDA any suspicious activity or toy product/s in the market through the following channels:

1. FDA's e-report
2. Send an email to report@fda.gov.ph
3. Contact FDA at (02) 857-1984.

Please be reminded that though this advisory is issued for the coming Christmas season, these reminders are applicable all-year round and should be practiced to ensure the safety of the consumers.


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