



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



FDA Advisory
No.: **2018-152**

03 MAY 2018

TO : **GENERAL CONSUMING PUBLIC**
SUBJECT : **Public Health Warning on Plastic Balloon Blowing Kits**

The FDA hereby warns the public on the dangers associated with plastic balloon blowing kits that upon exposure to emitted vapors of chemicals such as acetone and benzene whether on extended or prolonged exposures poses potential health hazards to people especially children.



Toys like straw-blown plastic balloons can be made even by a small child making it more fun for them to play. Public health experts however, have confirmed that these products have potential health hazards that may result from several ways:

1. Early symptoms of central nervous system depression or dysfunction, including euphoria, hallucinations, dizziness and difficulties with coordination of voluntary movements or having a blood disorder known as dyscrasias from eating or inhaling benzene – occurs on extended exposure and; serious symptoms including muscular twitching, unconsciousness and coma – occurs on prolonged exposure, all via inhalation of toxic emitted vapors of any solvents present such as but not limited to acetone and benzene,
2. Ill-effects of lead (acute and chronic lead poisoning) – occurs upon exposure or contact to the soft metal tube which contains lead,
3. Cut skin due to sharp soft metal tube – occurs when a child rips open the soft metal tube, draws and squeezes out the mixture up to the last remnants, and;
4. Hazard on choking/chewing on pieces of deflated plastic balloon – occurs when the deflated plastic balloon is not safely disposed of in such a way that they cannot be reused.




In 1973, Canada had already initiated prohibition of balloon blowing kits. They have issued recalls and alerts, latest issuance of which was identification number: RA-57240 posted on 26 February 2016 in their website, <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca>. In 1976, the United States' Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled more than 15 million tubes from a company who have shipped plastic balloon blowing kits from 1973. The product was deemed hazardous as it contains benzene.

In light of the above, all Local Government Units (LGUs) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are hereby requested to ensure that products such as plastic balloon blowing kits are notified or registered with the FDA before its distribution or be made available in their localities or areas of jurisdiction. Regulatory actions and sanctions shall be pursued strictly to all concerned establishments distributing the above-identified products.

For more information and inquiries, please e-mail us via info@fda.gov.ph. You may also utilize our online reporting facility, eReport, at www.fda.gov.ph/ereport, e-mail via report@fda.gov.ph or call us at the Center for Cosmetics Regulation and Research (CCRR) hotline (02) 857-1979 or (02) 857-1984.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.


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