

26 May 2011

**DOH-FDA Advisory**  
No. 2011- 005

**SUBJECT: FDA ASSURES THE PUBLIC THAT TOYS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES (Crayons and Pencils) ARE BEING MONITORED IN THE MARKET**

The Department of Health-Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA) has systems in place to ensure the safety of toys, and school supplies like crayons and pencils categorized as household hazardous substances are likewise being regulated.

Presidential Decree No. 881 issued on 30 January 1976 entitled "Empowering the Secretary of Health to Regulate Labeling, Sale and Distribution of Hazardous Substances," which was the basis for the issuance of DOH Administrative Order (AO) No. 2007-0032 entitled "Regulations on the Issuance of a License to Operate to Companies that Manufacture, Import or Distribute Toys for the Philippine Market" requires establishments engaged in the manufacture of toys to secure a License to Operate (LTO) and to register their products in compliance with the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Philippine National Standard (PNS) for Safety of Toys.

Likewise, they are required to secure a Certificate of Conformity (COC) for every shipment/freight/batch/lot (whichever is applicable) of toys manufactured, imported or distributed in the Philippines. Only toys that complied with the requirements of the PNS on the Safety of Toys shall be issued with a COC. Manufacturers, distributors, private or public organizations, individuals or any entity intending to distribute brand new, used or second hand, locally made or imported, donated toys including toy parts and accessories shall also secure a COC for such toys.

The toys shall be tested for the following requirements: Part 1 – Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties; Part 2 – Flammability; and Part 3 – Migration of certain elements. The toys maybe tested here or abroad as long as the laboratory that conducted the test is accredited by the body/organization that is a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Agreement of the World Trade Organization.

All manufacturers, importers and distributors of toys shall comply with the labeling and packaging requirements of the AO. The LTO number issued, the cautionary statements/warnings written in English or Filipino and the minimum age for intended use shall be written in visible, legible, understandable and indelible form.

The FDA conducts compliance monitoring of establishments and market surveillance of toy products regularly. The FDA also purchases toys from toy stores and these toys are tested by the FDA. Samples collected last December 2010 in retail outlets showed the toys passed safety standards. Non-compliant toys are subject to recall and disposed of in accordance with the submitted disposal plan of the company subject to FDA approval.

To ensure safety, parents are advised to:

1. Check labels on the packaging and observe precautions appearing in the labels;
2. Ensure that the child's toys are suited for his/her age under adult supervision;
3. Dispose plastic packaging accordingly; and
4. For children under age three (3), do not buy the following toys:
  - Balls with a diameter of 1.75 inches or less so as to prevent choking;
  - That easily breaks into small parts or pieces (glass or brittle plastics);
  - Containing small detachable parts or pieces which could become lodged in the throat;
  - With sharp points and edges;
  - With electrical parts that could pinch or entrap fingers, toes, or hair; and
  - With parts put together by straight pins, sharp wires or nails that are exposed and easily detached.

For more details and other queries, please get in touch with the Center for Device Regulation, Radiation Health and Research at telephone number 651-7800 local 3408.

  
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