

Tested in Hong Kong
Certified in Hong Kong

TOYS



FOREWORD

Toy testing and certification services in Hong Kong play a vital role in ensuring the highest standard of safety for toys exported globally.

'Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong' is a phrase now synonymous with the highest levels of professional integrity and quality assurance.



Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification

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MAKING TOYS SAFER

When it comes to toys, safety is of paramount concern. The toy industry uses a lot of third-party testing and certification services to assure compliance with international safety standards.

Why is toy testing and certification important?

It is vital that all toys sold on the market meet stringent safety standards to ensure that they are suitable for use by children. Through testing and certification, manufacturers, traders, retailers and parents can all gain peace of mind that tomorrow's generation will be playing with safe toys.



Benefits throughout the supply chain

Testing and certification enhance the quality of toys, minimise the chance of recalls, returns and complaints—reducing financial risks to suppliers, traders and retailers—and help to establish a good reputation. This in turn leads to increasing product sales which has a positive impact upon everyone's bottom-line.





COMMON TOY TESTING AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES

Testing and certification services—important elements throughout the supply chain.

DESIGN STAGE

- Design evaluation
- Risk assessment

SOURCING STAGE

- Factory audits
- Management system certification

MANUFACTURING STAGE

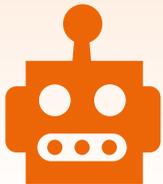
- Pre-production testing of components and raw materials
- Process monitoring

RETAIL STAGE

- Random post-production checks
- Compliance testing

PRE-SHIPMENT STAGE

- Quantity and quality verification by inspection and testing





TESTING

Testing is the determination of one or more characteristics of an object of conformity according to a specified technical procedure. Common testing for toys includes:

- testing for the bio-availability of toxic elements such as lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), cadmium (Cd) and the amount of hazardous chemicals such as phthalates;
- electrical testing, such as electrical strength test;
- testing for electromagnetic compatibility, such as radiated disturbance, electrostatic discharge;
- flammability testing;
- mechanical testing such as load stresses like torsion, traction and compression;
- micro-biological examination;
- physical testing such as presence of sharp points or hard edges; and
- performance testing such as durability and resistance to wear and tear.



CERTIFICATION

Certification is a third-party attestation related to products, processes, systems and persons.

Often certification is used to demonstrate that the management system of a manufacturer, trader or retailer meets international standards:

- ISO9001 for quality management;
- ISO14001 for environmental management; and
- SA 8000, BSCI, ICTI for Corporate Social Responsibility Certification.

Sometimes, product certification is required for toys, e.g. the China Compulsory Certification System.



INSPECTION

Inspection is the examination of a product design, product, process or installation and determination of its conformity with specific requirements. Examples of toy inspection services are factory inspections of the manufacturing processes and pre-shipment inspections at the factory to determine whether the batch of toy products complies with the buyer's specifications.





INTERNATIONAL TOY TESTING AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Standards, directives and related organisations fostering compliance with toy safety regulations around the world.

INTERNATIONAL ISO 8124

This standard relates to toy safety requirements including standards related to flammability, leaching of hazardous chemicals in addition to mechanical and physical safety aspects.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) based in Geneva, Switzerland, has developed over 19,000 International Standards including ISO 8124 relating to toy safety.

electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazards. The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act authorises new regulations and testing requirements for children's products which toy manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers have to comply with.

American toy standards are governed by ASTM International, formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), globally recognised as a leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary consensus standards. Today, over 12,000 ASTM standards are used around the world to help improve product quality and enhance safety.

UNITED STATES ASTM F963

This consumer safety specification was introduced to establish nationally recognised safety requirements for toys.

For demonstration of compliance under the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), the standard ensures manufacturers meet minimum safety requirements when producing various products including toys, electronics, video games, books, school supplies, educational materials and science kits.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) acts as a watchdog to help protect children from unreasonable risks of injury or death from unsafe toys that may pose a fire,

EUROPEAN UNION

EN-71

This standard specifies safety requirements for all toys sold in the European Union.

For demonstration of compliance under the EU Toy Safety Directive, the Standard also requires manufacturers to include clear labelling of minimum age warnings. The European Committee for Standardisation is a non-profit organisation that fosters the development, maintenance and distribution of coherent sets of standards and specifications in the EU.

CHINA

GB 6675

Applies to all toys, including trial products and premiums, sold in China.

GB/T 9832

Applies specifically to sewn plush toys and cloth toys and relates to the quality of fillings and decorative items.

Issued by the Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China.

HONG KONG

World-class accredited testing laboratories in Hong Kong are able to test and certify toys in line with all of the above international standards.

CANADA

Toys Regulations

This directive under SOR/2011-17 of the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act & Toys Regulations (CCPSA) covers prohibitions, restrictions and regulations pertaining to 'toys, equipment and other products for use by children'.

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

AS/NZS ISO 8124

For demonstration of compliance under the Australia Consumer Law and the New Zealand Fair Trading Act, this is the Australian and New Zealand ISO Standard (AS/NZS) relating to toy safety.





COMMON TOY SAFETY CERTIFICATION MARKS

The CE mark

Region: EU

CE (Conformité Européenne) is French for 'European conformity'
The CE is commonly marked on a range of products, including toys, sold within the European Union, declaring that the product has met EU consumer safety, health or environmental requirements.

CCC

Region: China

China has adopted the China Compulsory Certifications (CCC) mark, which is a compulsory safety mark for designated products including toys sold within the Chinese market.

ST

Region: Japan

Developed by the Japan Toy Association, the ST mark stipulates that products meet chemical, inflammability, and mechanical and physical requirements.

Note: As toys are sold in multiple countries, it is not uncommon to see multiple safety certification marks on toys.

GS

Region: Germany

The GS mark assures end users that products comply with European safety requirements, and applicable German requirements. The authorised independent third party has performed the tests, and the annual factory inspection to ensure the quality and safety of the toys.

FCC

Region: US

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the US Federal Government agency responsible for the management of the radio spectrum in the US. The FCC protects against radio and broadcast pollution, both by enforcing standards of broadcast decency, and by regulating electromagnetic noise sources, such as those from radio-controlled toys. The FCC makes sure such toys are compliant with regulations and requires specific, legible and permanent markings on products.

G-Mark

Region: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates)

Gulf Conformity mark, also known as G-mark is a certification mark used to indicate products including toys that conform to all technical regulations of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It means that the G-marked products meet all requirements of the corresponding technical regulations and have passed all conformity assessment procedures.



NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS?

Testing and certification organisations in Hong Kong are very knowledgeable and many can provide professional advisory services related to the regulatory requirements and applicable standards for different markets.

The Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission also provides the latest information about local and overseas standards and technical regulations. Its services include:

- Product standards library
- Standards sales service
- Technical enquiry/advisory service

Address 36/F, Immigration Tower
7 Gloucester Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Tel No. (852) 2829 4820

Fax No. (852) 2824 1302

E-mail psib@itc.gov.hk



CHOOSING SERVICE PROVIDERS

It is advisable to use service providers recognised by an accreditation body which has joined the mutual recognition arrangement of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Accredited organisations are assessed to ensure that they are competent to perform specific activities and have implemented a quality management system which complies with the relevant international standards (ISO/IEC 17025 for testing and calibration laboratories, ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies and ISO/IEC 17021 and/or ISO/IEC 17065 for certification bodies). With accreditation, the reliability of results provided by testing and certification bodies can be assured.



HONG KONG ACCREDITATION SERVICE

Having a robust accreditation system is one of Hong Kong's key advantages in developing the testing and certification industry. Accreditation is open and voluntary in Hong Kong and provided by the Government's Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS). Thanks to the mutual recognition arrangements of the ILAC/IAF, accreditation by the HKAS is recognised by accreditation bodies in over 100 economies, including all of Hong Kong's major trading partners.

A directory of the accredited organisations and their accreditation scopes can be found on the HKAS website: www.hkas.gov.hk



THE HKAS ACCREDITATION SYMBOL

Endorsed test reports and certificates issued by HKAS-accredited organisations bear the HKAS accreditation symbol with the registration number of the accredited organisations. The HKAS accreditation symbol can be considered as a quality indicator of the results of the conformity assessment conducted on the products concerned.





HONG KONG— REGIONAL TESTING AND CERTIFICATION HUB

Hong Kong has a long and trusted heritage in international toy testing and certification. The industry has long been providing a high volume of testing and inspection services for toy products manufactured in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta Region.



Global best practices and good knowledge of international market

Hong Kong has become the base for toy testing and certification bodies from around the world. Drawing on the strengths of global testing and certification best practices and its superb knowledge of international markets, Hong Kong has long been at the forefront of toy testing and certification.



Good professionalism, technical competence and integrity

Hong Kong's toy testing and certification organisations are internationally recognised for their in-depth knowledge of worldwide testing standards, adherence to stringent working protocols, reliability and integrity. They have a high technical competence and can provide new types of and tailor-made testing services quickly in response to market need. The industry is renowned for its integrity and credibility. Reports and certificates issued by the industry are well-trusted by buyers globally.



CCC Toy Testing

Accredited testing laboratories can now undertake testing for the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) system for toy products in cooperation with designated mainland certification bodies. Traders or manufactures can make use of the services of Hong Kong's laboratories for their toy products sold in Mainland China.

Proximity to Mainland China

Hong Kong is conveniently located within the Pearl River Delta region; one of the largest manufacturing base of toys in the world. This allows the industry to support the international trading of toy products manufactured in the region.



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Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification

Testing and certification is one of the economic sectors where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages and has good potential for further development. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region established the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification in September 2009 to advise on the overall development strategy of the industry. The vision of the Council is for Hong Kong to develop into a regional testing and certification hub by promoting the 'Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong' branding.



Hong Kong Association for Testing, Inspection and Certification

The Hong Kong Association for Testing, Inspection and Certification (HKTIC) was established in 1981 as a non-profit organisation. It promotes and contributes to the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong and provides a platform for dialogue with the government and other organisations. With close to 60 members, including all the major players, HKTIC represents around 70% of the private-sector employment in the testing and certification industry.



GLOSSARY



Accreditation

process carried out by third-party umbrella organisations, such as HKAS, which involves verifying work performed by conformity assessment bodies (CABs) including: testing laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies. Accreditation ensures that credentials and certificates issued by CABs are in line with official standards and gives clients peace of mind that they are competent to carry out specific conformity assessments including: tests, calibrations, measurements and certification.

CPSC

the *Consumer Product Safety Commission* is a US agency committed to protecting consumers and families from

products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical or mechanical hazard that can injure children. Their work ensures the safety of consumer products including toys, cribs and host of other household items.

Certification

certification or registration involves a third party issuing written assurance that a product—including services, process, personnel, organisation or system, conforms to specific requirements.

Inspection

a process that involves examining toys on-site for potential safety issues such as small parts, sharp edges, loose joints, correct labelling, use of sub-standard materials, function consistency and general construction. Inspection helps ensure

that toys conform to relevant regulations and often also involves checks for flammability and/or presence of dangerous chemicals on a sample of shipment.

ILAC

the *International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation* is an international cooperation of laboratory and inspection accreditation bodies that was established over 30 years ago to help remove technical barriers to trade. In November 2000, 36 laboratory accreditation bodies, from 28 economies worldwide, signed an 'arrangement' in Washington DC to promote the acceptance of technical test and calibration data for exported goods.

IAF

the *International Accreditation Forum* is the world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation Bodies relating to conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services and personnel. Its primary function is to develop a single worldwide programme of conformity assessment which reduces risks to both businesses and customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon.

ISO

the *International Organization for Standardization* is the world's largest developer and publisher of International Standards. It is a

non-governmental organisation that forms a bridge between the public and private sectors. The ISO's Central Secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and coordinates a network of the national standards institutes of 164 countries—with one member per country.

Standard

an agreed benchmark relating to quality and safety aspects in the design and manufacture of toys. Standards are developed through involvement of both manufacturers and consumers. The need for standards is usually expressed by an industry sector and then passed to national and/or governmental-level bodies for recognition and formal definition





in terms of its technical scope. When formulating new standards it is important to ensure balanced input from industry representatives; public health and regulatory officials; and end users. Standards are also constantly reviewed and revised to ensure that they are up to date and technically sound.

Testing

testing is the determination of one or more characteristics of an object of conformity according to a specified technical procedure.

REACH

the European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use which deals with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical

substances. REACH aims to enhance both consumer safety and the environment through the better and earlier identification of potential dangers of chemical substances. REACH also aims to foster innovation in, and enhance the competitiveness of, the EU chemicals industry.

RoHS

the *Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances* in electrical and electronic equipment. The National Measurement Office in the UK—working in partnership with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills—is the market surveillance authority responsible for enforcing the RoHS Regulations within the UK. The RoHS Directive

bans the placement on the EU market of any electrical and/or electronic equipment that contains more than agreed levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants.

USEFUL WEBSITES/CONTACTS

Hong Kong

Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC)

www.hkctc.gov.hk

Hong Kong Association for Testing, Inspection and Certification (HKTIC)

www.hktic.org

Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS)

www.hkas.gov.hk

Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB)

www.psib.gov.hk

International

US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

www.cpsc.gov

European Commission – Health & Consumers Safety & Recalls

www.ec.europa.eu/consumers/cons_safe

International Organization for Standardization

www.iso.org

ASTM International

www.astm.org