



TOYS: SPOTLIGHT ON **GCC MEMBER STATES**

UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING BAHRAIN, KUWAIT, OMAN, QATAR,
SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND YEMEN

PARTNER WITH SGS TO MEET GCC REQUIREMENTS FOR TOYS



Toys destined for sale and/or distribution in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen - must conform to GCC Technical Regulation on Children's Toys (BD-131704-01) and display the GCC conformity mark, the G-mark. The regulation is enforced in 2 phases: 1 January 2014 for non-chemicals and 15 July 2015 for chemicals. Partner with SGS to bring toys to the GCC market with confidence.

GCC TOY SCOPE & EXEMPTIONS

The GCC Technical Regulation defines a toy as an item "designed or intended, whether or not exclusively, for use in play by children under 14 years of age". This means that aside from the exempted products listed below and in Technical Regulation BD-131704-01, all toys designed for children under 14 to use in play must comply. Exempted products include:

- Automatic playing machines, whether coin operated or not, intended for public use
- Playground equipment intended for public use
- Slings and catapults
- Toy steam engines
- Toy vehicles equipped with combustion engines

GCC TECHNICAL REGULATION

The GCC Technical Regulation on Children's Toys has been designed and implemented to ensure a high level of protection of the health and safety of consumers and to establish a legislative framework for any toy placed on the market. The essential safety requirements under Regulation BD-131704-01 are:

- General Product Safety Regulation (BD-091005-04)
- Physical and mechanical properties
- Flammability
- Chemicals:
 - 19 soluble elements
 - Allergenic fragrances
 - CMR substances (carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic)
 - N-Nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable substances
 - Phthalates
- Electrical, hygiene and radioactivity properties

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Before placing a toy on the market, the manufacturer shall carry out a safety assessment on the hazards (chemical, physical & mechanical, electrical, flammability etc.) that the toy may present, as well as an assessment of the potential exposure to such hazards.

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

Each toy requires a technical documentation. This will establish the applicable requirements as well as the assessment, design, manufacture and operation of the toy. It should contain at least:

- A general description of the toy
- A detailed description, with conceptual design and manufacturing drawings, including list of components and materials e.g. bill of materials (BOM) and/or bill of substances (BOS)
- Safety data sheets (SDS) for the chemicals used
- Safety assessments
- Test reports
- Declaration of conformity (DOC)
- GC-Type Examination Certificate, if any

The technical documentation shall be presented within 30 days per request.

THE LATEST EN TOY SAFETY STANDARDS CAN BE USED TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH BD-131704-01. THE INSTRUCTIONS, SAFETY INFORMATION, WARNINGS AND LABELLING MUST BE IN ARABIC.

ECONOMIC OPERATORS

The GCC Regulation includes obligations for manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers who are linked to the manufacturer, importers who are unlinked to the manufacturer, and distributors. An importer or distributor would be considered as a manufacturer.

if it places a toy on the market under its own name or trademark, or modifies a toy in a manner that complies with the applicable requirements. The obligations of each economic operator are detailed in Table 1.

Gulf Conformity Tracking Symbol (GCTS):

A symbol provided by the GSO, consisting of the Gulf Conformity Marking, with three-digits notified body number, located below it, and the QR Code. This symbol is generated by GSO Certificate Tracking System



MANUFACTURERS PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO ENSURE THAT THE TOY IS SAFE AND COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER GSO SCHEME. SGS LABORATORIES IN DUBAI, HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN ARE NOTIFIED BODIES UNDER GSO SCHEME.

	MANUFACTURER	AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE	IMPORTER LINKED TO MANUFACTURER	IMPORTER UNLINKED TO MANUFACTURER	DISTRIBUTOR
OBLIGATIONS OF ECONOMIC OPERATORS UNDER GCC TECHNICAL REGULATION ON CHILDREN'S TOYS BD-131704-01 (TABLE 1)	<i>A person who manufactures a toy or has a toy designed or manufactured, and markets that toy under his name or trademark.</i>	<i>A person established within the Community who has received a written mandate from a manufacturer to act on his behalf in relation to specific tasks.</i>	<i>A person established within the Community who places a toy from a third country on the Community market.</i>	<i>A person established within the Community who places a toy from a third country on the Community market.</i>	<i>A person in the supply chain other than the manufacturer or the importer, who makes a toy available on the market.</i>
			<i>'Linked to the manufacturer' means he has direct access to the manufacturer.</i>	<i>'Unlinked to the manufacturer' means he does not have direct access to the manufacturer. (e.g. trader)</i>	
CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE (CAP) AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT	Carry out CAP and conduct safety assessment of the toy (physical, chemical, etc.)	No obligation	Ensure CAP and safety assessment have been carried out by the manufacturer.	Carry out an importer CAP. The chosen Notified Body will carry out CAP and issue certificate of conformity (COC) for compliant toy.	Verify CAP.
TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION	Draw up and keep for 10 years after toy has been placed on the market.	Keep only	Ensure the technical documentation has been drawn up by the manufacturer.	Establish	Verify the information.
INDICATE ECONOMIC OPERATOR'S NAME, REGISTERED TRADE NAME / MARK AND CONTACT DETAILS	Yes, indicate	No specific obligation (dependent on written mandate with manufacturer)	Yes, indicate	Yes, indicate	Verify the information.
ENSURE TOY HAS IDENTIFICATION AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY INFORMATION IN ARABIC	Yes, ensure	No specific obligation (dependent on written mandate with manufacturer)	Yes, ensure	Yes, ensure	Verify the information.
DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY (DOC)	Draw up manufacturer DOC.	Keep the manufacturer DOC.	Draw up importer DOC.		Verify DOC.
GCTS	Affix GCTS on compliant toy/ packaging.	No obligation	Ensure GCTS is affixed on compliant toy/ packaging.	Affix GCTS on compliant toy/ packaging (under Notified Body control).	Verify GCTS.

GULF CONFORMITY MARK (G-MARK)

The G-Mark testifies compliance with GCC-wide safety and health regulations for toys. On successful completion of the assessment and certification process, toys must display the G-Mark:

- On the toy itself, or its packaging
- Affixed in a clear, legible, permanent and inerasable manner
- At a minimum height of 5 mm

Only toys demonstrating compliance to Technical Regulation BD-131704-01 qualify to display the G-Mark.



WARNING REQUIREMENTS

All toys must display relevant warnings and instructions in Arabic. To ensure clarity for consumers, these messages must not conflict with the toy's intended use. Warnings that determine a purchasing decision, such as those specifying the minimum and maximum age for users, must appear on the packaging or otherwise be clearly visible to the consumer before purchase. The GCC standards are broadly in line with the requirements of the European Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC and EN 71 standards.

To support GCC compliance, our experts can review existing labels and advise on the applicable Arabic language to be added. In addition, we advise clients on the need to translate instruction manuals, warning statements and any other information required by BD-131704-01.

GC-TYPE EXAMINATION

This is the stage of the conformity assessment procedure in which the chosen Notified Body, as required, examines the technical design of a toy and verifies and attests that its technical design meets the requirements of the GCC Technical Regulation on Children's Toys. On successful completion of the type examination, a toy will receive a GC-Type Examination Certificate.

SGS toy safety experts, based in the UAE and around the world, can advise toy manufacturers during product development, technical documentation review and conformity assessment stages on whether the toy is likely to comply with the GCC regulation and any remedial actions that may be required.

WHY CHOOSE SGS?

Our expertise in compliance management will help you make the right choices to access the GCC markets, while carrying out the necessary testing and certification quickly and professionally. SGS offers a one-stop solution for full compliance with GCC Technical Regulation on Children's Toys (BD-131704-01):

General

- Helping you to understand your obligations
- Coordinate / liaise with authorities in GCC states

Testing & Safety Assessment

- Testing and certification in Hong Kong and China (Notified Bodies)
- Testing in SGS toy labs (if Notified Body is not required)
- Reviewing / validating existing test reports
- Conducting toy safety assessment (physical, chemical, etc.)

Technical Documentation

- Reviewing the technical documentation with data provided by the client
- Reviewing the Declaration of Conformity (DOC)
- Preparing the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) if needed
- Issuing the Certificate of Conformity (COC) (Notified Bodies)

Labelling

- Reviewing labels and markings in Arabic
- Translating documents from English to Arabic
- Registering the G-Mark (not available yet)

We offer competitive advantages, such as accreditations:

- SGS Gulf Limited has been appointed as a notified body under Number NB 0003
- SGS Hong Kong Ltd (main office) and SGS-CSTC Standards Technical Services Co, Ltd Shenzhen have been appointed as a notified body under Number NB 0008. Both are ISO 17025 accredited labs for toy testing

Independent and innovative, our toy experts use state-of-the-art facilities and technology to deliver tailor made added value services that help improve your business.

CONTACT US

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

SGS