

NOTICE

Reference : CPSO-130723-090
Date : 13 Jul 2023
To : Online sellers of products for children
Subject : Notice on safety hazards posed by magnetic toys, water beads and button batteries

Toys that do not meet safety standards must not be supplied or sold

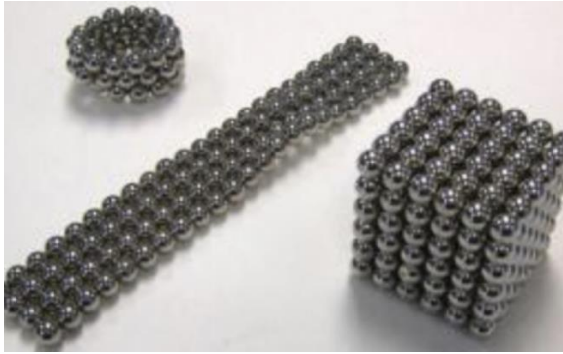
General consumer goods, such as toys and children's products, are required to meet applicable safety standards formulated or adopted and published by international standards bodies and organisations. Non-compliant toys must not be sold or supplied or sold.

This notice highlights three categories of toys that do not comply with toy safety standards: i) **magnetic ball toys**; ii) **water beads**; and iii) electric toys containing **button batteries that are improperly secured** (e.g. the button batteries are accessible without the aid of a tool or through a single action).



The listings of i) magnetic ball toys; and ii) water beads **must not be marketed as a toy** (whether directly or indirectly) for children below the age of 14 years. These products should not be listed in categories related to toys, or children's products on the respective platforms. If a consumer is reasonably able to infer that the product is a toy from the packaging, the packaging must clearly indicate that the product is not suitable for children below 14 years of age, with at least 1 such statement in English.

Online sellers are to ensure that electric toys containing button batteries are properly secured, such that the button batteries are not accessible without the aid of a tool or can only be opened after at least two independent movements are applied simultaneously.

These three types of toys are attractive to young children, who may accidentally swallow them. Details on the safety hazards related to these three items are as follows.

No.	Item	Hazard
1	Magnetic ball toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magnetic ball toys are small but powerful, with a high magnetic flux.• If two or more pieces are swallowed, they can cause serious harm or death by pinching or perforating the intestines and will require surgery for removal.
2	Water beads / jelly beads / gel beads / water orbs / hydro orbs / orbeez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water beads are very small and absorb liquid slowly to expand.

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		<p>Over time, they can expand to hundreds of times their initial size.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If swallowed by young children, even one expanded water bead can cause intestinal obstruction that may require surgery to remove.
3	<p>Button batteries / coin batteries</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If swallowed, a button battery can react with saliva and trigger a chemical reaction that can cause severe burns to the child's throat and internal organs, potentially leading to death.

For further enquiries, please contact the Consumer Product Safety Office (CPSO) at 6898 1800, email to consumerproductsafety@enterprisesg.gov.sg or visit our website at <https://www.consumerproductsafety.gov.sg/>.

About the Consumer Product Safety Office (CPSO):
The CPSO administers the Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods Safety Requirements) Regulations (CGSR), which regulates general consumer products such as toys and children's products.

Issued by:
The Consumer Product Safety Office (CPSO)
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