

The Fair Trading Act

Product safety and consumer information standards



Product safety standards are set by regulation under the Fair Trading Act. They are intended to prevent and reduce the chance of accidents and injuries from using any of these products.

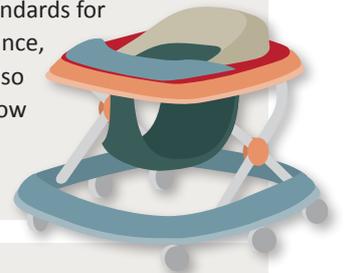
Children's toys

Children under the age of 36 months are less able to cough up anything they swallow by accident and may choke. To reduce the risk of children choking on a toy or a part of a toy, children's toys must be of a specified size and contain no small parts that break off easily. In general the safety standard applies to toys with characteristics that will appeal to a child up to 36 months of age.



Baby walkers

As baby walkers allow children who cannot walk to move around faster and further and in different ways than they are able to on their own, children may get hurt when using one. To reduce the risk of injury, all baby walkers must meet safety standards for design, construction and performance, and pass safety tests. They must also be labelled with warnings about how to use them safely.



Children's nightwear

Children may be injured if their nightwear accidentally catches on fire. To reduce the risk of injury from accidental fire, children's nightwear should be made of fabrics that are less likely to burn or designed to reduce fire danger. Children's nightwear must also contain fire hazard labels as set out in the standard.



Pedal bicycles

Cyclists may be injured by riding an unsafe bicycle. To reduce the risk of injury to cyclists, bicycles must be designed, built and perform to the level given in the product safety standard. The standard also ensures that cyclists are given the right safety information and warnings so they can use the bicycle correctly and reduce the risk of accidents.



Household cots

Babies and young children may be injured in an unsafe cot. For example, a young child may get stuck or fall through the bars in a cot if the gap between each bar is too wide. To reduce the risk of injury, cots made for a baby or young child to sleep in at home must meet the safety standard. The standard applies to anyone selling such a cot, including sellers of second hand cots.



Cigarette lighters

Lighters that are unsafe, do not work properly or are used incorrectly, particularly by children, may cause accidental fires and injuries. To reduce the risk of accidental fires, cigarette lighters must meet certain performance, design and labelling standards. Lighters must be designed to ensure most children would not be able to operate them.



Consumer information standards

Consumer information standards apply to some products. They are set by regulation under the Fair Trading Act. These ensure that consumers are provided with information that helps them make informed decisions when purchasing and caring for a product. Anyone supplying, offering to supply or advertising the supply of any products subject to a consumer information standard need to follow these rules. The requirements given in each consumer information standard are different depending on the type of product.

This brochure is intended for guidance only and is current as at November 2016.

This guide contains a high level overview of product safety and consumer information standards. For more detailed information and the requirements of the current standards please visit www.comcom.govt.nz/fair-trading/ and www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/legislation-policy/acts-regulation/

Care labelling

Any type of clothing, household textile or furnishing must have a label that gives consumers information about how to care for that type of product. Informing a consumer about caring for clothing, household textiles and furnishings in the correct way means that the fabric is less likely to be damaged or destroyed and is more likely to last for a reasonable period of time.

Clothing and footwear country of origin

All new clothing and footwear must have a label that states where the product was made. This informs consumers of where an item of clothing or footwear is produced when deciding whether to buy the item.

Labels must be presented in a particular manner and must be displayed in a way that does not prevent a consumer from reading the label.

Fibre content labelling

Clothing or textile products must have labels that list the fibres, and the percentages or amounts of the different fibres, in the product. This ensures that consumers have accurate information about the fibre content of the clothing or textiles they buy to make sure they can correctly use and care for these products.

Labels must also be positioned in a particular way, must be permanent or, in certain circumstances, may be temporary and must be clearly printed and written in English.



Consumer information standards also exist for used motor vehicles and the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme. This brochure and the accompanying guidelines do not cover these two consumer information standards.

This fact sheet provides guidance only. It is not intended to be definitive and should not be used in place of legal advice. You are responsible for staying up to date with legislative changes.

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Contact us with information about possible breaches of the laws we enforce:

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