

Babies' dummies

June 2007

To prevent potential hazards for babies and infants, the Minister for Consumer Affairs has prescribed a new safety standard for dummies under the Fair Trading (Safety Standard) (Babies Dummies) Regulations 2007. These regulations adopt and apply, with amendments, Australian Standard AS 2432 – 1991. This makes it illegal to supply dummies that do not comply with the prescribed safety standard.

Need more information?

Call Consumer Affairs Victoria Helpline on 1300 55 81 81.

Hazards

Dummies that do not comply with the standard set out in the regulations carry potential choking, suffocation and strangulation hazards.

Mandatory safety standard

Key safety features of amended Australian Standard AS 2432 – 1991

- Specification of shield size and shape to prevent the dummy lodging in a baby's throat.
- Ventilation holes in the shield to prevent choking if the dummy enters a baby's mouth.
- Secure attachment of the teat.
- Structural integrity of the dummy to prevent the release of small parts.
- A label warning against attaching the dummy with a ribbon around the child's neck to avoid a potential strangulation hazard.

The mandatory standard aims to:

- reduce the level of risk to infants by preventing supply of dummies that do not meet key safety requirements
- reduce the incidence of serious injury associated with poor quality products
- give consumers confidence that dummies available in the market have a reasonable level of safety, and
- provide a framework for industry to determine appropriate levels of safety for dummies.

Important safety tips

Look for dummies that:

- have a shield with ventilation holes that will stop suffocation if the shield enters your baby's mouth
- have a shield that is smooth, rigid and large enough to prevent the whole dummy entering the baby's mouth
- have no loose parts, are strong and will not break apart and create small parts that can cause a baby to choke.
- have NO strings or ties, as these can wrap tightly around a baby's neck and cause strangulation.

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Safety habits

- Check dummies before each use. Pull hard on the teat and tug the handle and ring to ensure they won't give way under pressure.
- Check the teat for wear and tear. If it looks worn or damaged, throw the dummy away.
- Always store dummies away from direct sunlight, which can cause rubber to perish.
- Regularly sterilise or wash the dummy in hot soapy water, rinse and air dry.
- Regularly check your baby. Babies who are unable to remove the dummy themselves should be watched carefully as they are at greater risk.
- Never tie a dummy on a string or ribbon around your baby's neck or on a cot, pram or other equipment, as this can cause strangulation.

More information

Information on product safety is available from:

**Consumer Affairs Victoria
Victorian Consumer &
Business Centre**

113 Exhibition Street
Melbourne 3000
Telephone: 1300 55 81 81
Website www.consumer.vic.gov.au

Further reading

Consumer Affairs Victoria has a range of Product Safety related factsheets

- Baby bath seats and supports
- Baby walker safety
- Bunk bed safety
- Children and water—keeping them safe
- Choosing a cot—facts for consumers
- Curtain and blind cords
- Laser pointers
- Monkey bikes
- Monkey bikes—frequently asked questions for consumers
- Monkey bikes—frequently asked questions for suppliers
- Pram and stroller safety
- Supplying safe cots—facts for traders
- Toughened glass
- Toys for children under three—safety regulations for traders
- Toy safety checklist

Because this publication avoids the use of legal language, information about the law may have been summarised or expressed in general statements. This information should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional legal advice or reference to the actual legislation. Authorised by the Victorian Government, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.