

# Risk Management Framework for Consumer Products

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*A Canadian Perspective*

*Presentation to ICPHSO  
March, 2004*

# *Overview of Presentation*

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- Risk Management Framework for Consumer Products
- Priority Setting Criteria
- Case Study for Consumer Products  
“Yo-yo type balls”

# ***Risk Management Framework***



- 1. Identification of Issue and Context**
2. Assess Risks and Benefits
3. Identify Analyze Options
4. Select a Strategy
5. Implement the Strategy
6. Monitor and Evaluate Results
7. Involve Interested and Affected Parties

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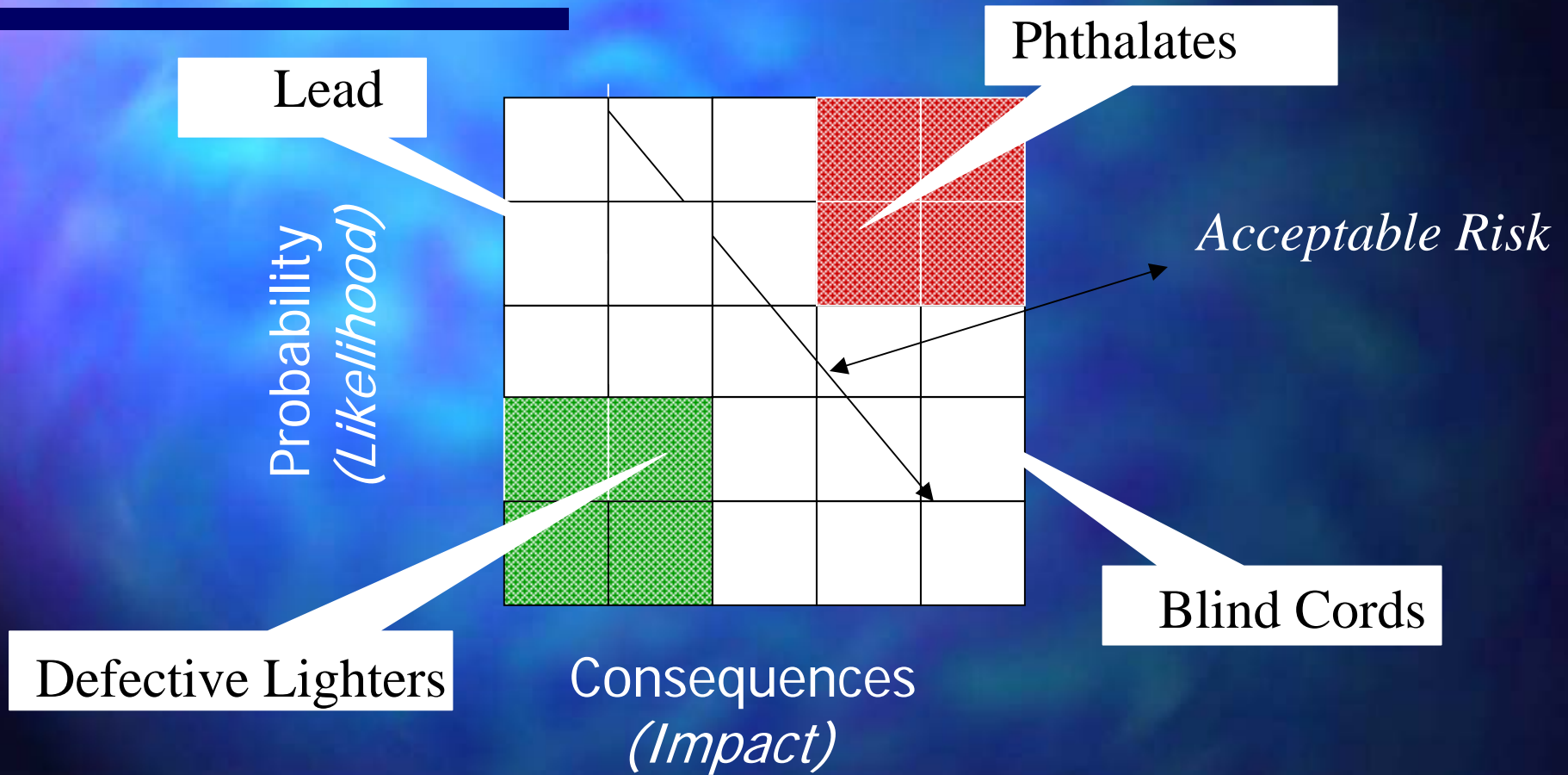
# *Priority Setting Criteria*

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- Enable consistency, transparency and discipline to the setting of priorities based on sound risk assessment and management principles

# Consumer Product Issues

(hypothetical)



# *Priority Setting Criteria...*

## *for consideration*

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- Immediacy of Potential Health Risk
- Need/Urgency for Intervention
- Costs/Benefits of action versus inaction
- Vulnerability of segment of population at risk
- Proportion of population exposed to risk

# *Priority Setting Criteria...* *for consideration*

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- Injury Data:
  - Number of injuries reported
  - Number of near-miss incidents reported
  - Number of fatalities reported
  - Potential risk of severe injury, illness or death
  - Trends in incidents reported
  - International intelligence on injuries

# *Case Study for Consumer Products*

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“Yo-Yo Type Balls”

# *Risk Identification / Risk Assessment*

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- Spring 2003:
  - Product presence noted in Canadian marketplace
  - Consumer complaint on chemical odour received and investigated
  - Canada alerted to potential risk of strangulation

# *Risk Assessment*

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- **Risk/Hazard Assessment:**

- i) Chemical Composition:

- Toxic potential

- ii) Physical Properties (foreseeable use):

- Strangulation potential

# *Risk Management Strategy*

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- Summer 2003:
  - Within 1 month period (April-May), 8 reports of near-miss strangulation received
  - On May 13, Health Canada took action:
    - released “**Consumer Warning**” advising of strangulation hazard
    - “**Letter to Trade**” requesting removal of product from marketplace

# *Risk Management Strategy*

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- Summer 2003 (cont'd):
  - Incidents of near-miss strangulations continue to be reported and “Yo-yo type” balls continue to be sold at retail locations across Canada
  - On August 1, Health Canada re-issued “**Consumer Warning**” advising of strangulation hazard and continued efforts with trade to voluntarily remove product

# *Risk Management Strategy*

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- Due to serious nature of hazard, the continued reporting of near-miss strangulation incidents, the popularity and availability of this product ....
  - .... On October 2, 2003  
Health Canada imposed a regulatory prohibition on the advertisement, sale and importation of all "Yo-yo type" balls.

# ***International Action*** (to-date):

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- France: ban imposed in response to a serious near-miss strangulation incident
- United Kingdom: product ban came into force after 8 near-miss strangulations reported
- Australia, Brazil, St. Lucia, Luxembourg: similar prohibitions
- United States: Press Release issued advising of potential risk of strangulation.

# Thank you....



**Looking for more information ?**

**Director**

**Consumer Product Safety**

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