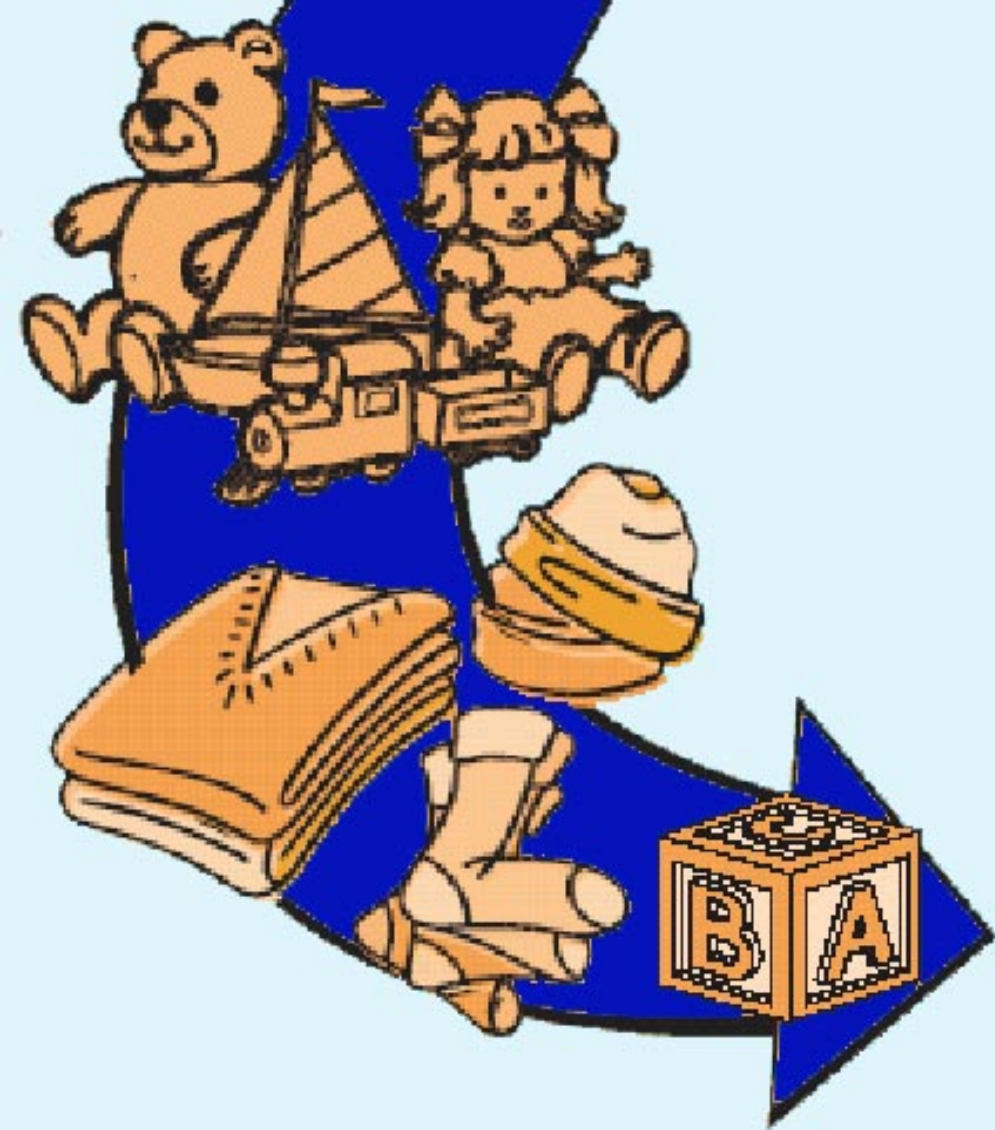


Working Group on Consumer Product Safety

**ICHPSO Annual Meeting
February 2007**

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Outline



- COPOLCO's WG on Product Safety
- Mandate from COPOLCO
- Rationales in Standards
- Consumer Product Safety: Practical Guidance for Suppliers
- Priorities for 2006/07

Purpose of Working Group

“To promote the design and manufacture of safe consumer products through the work of COPOLCO and ISO.”





Background

WG established to address:

- need for a forum in ISO to develop safety standards for miscellaneous consumer products
- dumping of unsafe products on less regulated markets:
- the need to protect those living outside of the well regulated markets of Europe and NA
- the problem of products for which no standards exist.
- globalization, increase in number and complexity of consumer products



Mandate 2006

- **Develop COPOLCO strategies and positions on consumer product safety issues**
- **Proposal to include rationales in standards**
- **Proposal to develop a guidance standard (Consumer Product Safety: Practical Guidance for Suppliers)**
- **Identify changes required to ISO/IEC Guide 51 - Safety aspects — Guidelines for their inclusion in standards**
- **Examine use of ISO toy standard**



Progress to Date

- Proposal Prepared for consideration of ISO on inclusion of rationales in standards
- New Work Item prepared for consideration of ISO to develop a guidance standard - Consumer Product Safety: Practical Guidance for Suppliers
- Survey on revisions to ISO/IEC Guide 51
- Survey on toy standard

Rationales in Safety Standard

Work of sub
group lead by
Kitty Pilarz





Rationales in Standards

To Explain

- how and why the standard was developed,
- assumptions made and underlying data used.
- why measurements, limits or tests are chosen.
- valuable historical background, particularly, when standards are being updated or revised.



Justification

- Helps all stakeholders communicate about essential safety issues (particularly those with limited access to technical background)
- Promotes transparency
- Records reasons for decisions
- Minimizes time wasted in redressing old arguments
- Make standards more understandable internationally
- Decreases technical barriers to trade

Case Example: Hemispheric shapes

ASTM F963 updated in 2003 to address hemispheric shaped objects, included detailed rationale statement

- Nearly identical requirements added to EN 71 in 2005.
- ISO 8124 update is in progress, expected completion 2007. Requirements will be nearly identical.





Recommendations

COPOLCO recommended that ISO:

- communicate the benefits of rationale statements to all standard developers
- revise Guidelines to require rationales when practical, in consumer products standards

Decision was made by ISO Technical Management Board not to make it mandatory even though they have no objection to the inclusion of rationales.



**Guidance standard -
Consumer Product
Safety: Practical
Guidance for
Suppliers**



Purpose of Guidance Standard for Suppliers

To provide designers, manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, and other producers of consumers goods, with the practical tools to assist them in identifying, assessing, and eliminating or reducing the risks associated with consumer products.



Justification

- **Difficult for governments and standard developers to keep pace with safety requirements for new products**
- **Move towards supplier carrying out a risk assessment**
- **Suppliers currently have limited experience**
- **Need for universal guidance – identify potential safety problems and address them before entering the market.**
- **Injury statistics in Europe, NA and Pacific countries – design, defects, inadequate safety information are associated with many unintentional injuries. .**



Potential Benefits

- fewer preventable product related injuries and deaths;
- addresses the concerns of consumers internationally, leading to greater consumer confidence when purchasing;
- helping standards developers, industry and governments apply the ISO/IEC Guides 37, 50, 51 and 71 and IEC Guide 104;
- educates suppliers by highlighting and providing guidance in the multidisciplinary nature of making safer goods;



Potential Benefits

- provides a systems approach to product safety that addresses every step - from design to the known and predictable use behaviours of consumers; and
- reduces confusion and inefficiencies where a supplier has to comply with different processes in different countries.
- fewer legal problems for suppliers with dissatisfied customers and/or enforcement authorities



Potential Content

- the information and data that needs to be considered when identifying and assessing potential risks (e.g. defects, intended use, foreseeable use, ability of users, injuries);
- practical guidance on how to implement basic concepts e.g. outlined in ISO/IEC Guide 51;
- the steps to follow when assessing risks associated with consumer products - hazard identification, exposure, probability of harm occurring, severity of injury, and technical and human ways to avoid or limit the harm, and
- potential ways of negating or limiting the harm.



Recommendation

COPOLCO recommended that ISO develop a guidance standard on Consumer Product Safety: Practical Guidance for Suppliers

Decision: ISO TMB has sent proposal out for a vote. IEC also expressed an interest in participating.

Questions???



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