

EU published new toy age grading guidance document

In 2009, the EU Commission had published guidance document NO.11 to help with correct toy age grading classification. But in recent years, many new kinds of toys were developed and a lot of disputes were reported because manufacturers and authorities had classified toys age grading differently.

On Feb 1, 2023, European Commission published new guidance on the classification of toys—GUIDANCE DOCUMENT NO.11: ON THE APPLICATION OF DIRECTIVE 2009/48/EC ON THE SAFETY OF TOYS. Toys intended for children under 36 months of age or of 36 months and over. Compared with previous 2009 version, this version covers more toy categories, and provides age grading for more borderline toys. Below comparison table list all toy categories mentioned in these two versions.

Comparison table of covered toy categories between version 2009 and version 2023

Version 2009	Version 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Puzzles ➤ Dolls ➤ Soft and stuffed toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Puzzles ➤ Dolls ➤ Soft and stuffed or partially stuffed toys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soft and stuffed or partially stuffed toys ● Squishies ➤ Fidget toys ➤ Modeling clay/dough, slime, soap bubbles ➤ Movable/wheeled toys ➤ Game sets and board games ➤ Play scenes, constructed models and construction toys ➤ Toys intended to be entered ➤ Toys intended to bear the mass of a child ➤ Toy sports equipment and balls ➤ Hobby horse/stick horse ➤ Push-pull toys and pull-along toys ➤ Audio/visual equipment ➤ Toy figures and other toys

Impact of this new toy age grading guidance document

Regarding EU toy, different age classification will lead to different test requirement, especially for physical and mechanical requirement as set out in EN 71-1 and chemical requirement as set out in TSD 2009/48/EC Annex II, Appendix C. For some toys, such as animal shaped fidget toy, animal shaped soap bubble gun, simple wooden train set and pop-up tent or crawl tube, may be classified as 3+ toy previously due to indistinct age guideline. But now they may be classified as 3- and have to fulfil more stringent requirement, otherwise they may be recalled. CTI offers age grading evaluation service and a wide range of other services to ensure your toys comply with the EU market requirement. You are welcomed to contact us for further information.

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