

US Senate Voted to Enhance Toy Safety

The US Senate passed the bill (**H.R. 4040: CPSC Reform Act**)² in a 79 to 13 vote on March 6, 2008 that would make the **ASTM F963, Standard Consumer Specification for Toy Safety** a mandatory federal requirement for all toys sold in the United States.

Senator Bill Nelson of Florida, who added this toy safety requirement to the proposed law and championed its passage in the Senate, stated, "By requiring that children's products be held to a higher safety standard and tested by an outside group, we can stop unsafe ones from entering the marketplace." Commenting on the importance of the toy safety provisions in the bill, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska remarked, "When a child unwraps a gift on his or her birthday, the surprise should be what the toy is – not whether the toy is unsafe. It should not have dangerous substances or unsafe parts."



"Making compliance with ASTM F963 mandatory is a big step toward rebuilding consumer confidence in the safety of toys," said Donald Mays, senior director of product safety and technical public policy for Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports

In order to become law, the Senate and the House have to resolve and harmonize the differences between their versions and then get the harmonized version signed by President Bush.

¹ Information above is extracted from the ASTM news. To access the full article, please visit:
<http://69.7.224.88/viewnews.aspx?newsID=1300>

² To access the full text of the bill (**H.R. 4040 EAS**) passed on March 6, 2008, please visit:
<http://www.govtrack.us/data/us/bills.text/110/h/h4040.pdf>

As your key business partner, STR-HK offers Testing on Toys and Children's Products to ensure your products are safe for marketing worldwide!

Specialized Technology Resources (H.K.) Ltd. has obtained HOKLAS accreditation on various toy safety standards. For details of our HOKLAS scope of accreditation, please visit: <http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hoklas/036.pdf>

For enquires or other information on toys and reliability testing, please contact STR at:

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