



Standard Consumer Safety Specification on Toy Safety¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 963; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

^{ε1} NOTE—In 5.10.1.2, the signal word type sizes were editorially corrected in February 2002. Paragraph 8.16.4 was corrected editorially in February 2002. Figures have been renumbered editorially since the original printing of this specification.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this consumer safety specification is to establish nationally recognized safety requirements for toys. Although this specification will not eliminate the need for the exercise of parental responsibility in selecting toys appropriate to the age of a child, or parental supervision in situations in which children of various ages may have access to the same toys, its application will minimize accidents in the normal, intended use and reasonably foreseeable abuse of the toys covered by this specification. This specification was developed originally as a Voluntary Product Standard under the auspices of the National Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, and published in 1976 (PS 72–76). The present revision is intended to update the safety requirements to include the following by reference: published federal mandatory requirements, relevant voluntary standards, certain new requirements for addressing potential hazards, and several technical revisions based on producer experience with the original standard. In addition, where appropriate, test criteria have been updated to reflect more current anthropometric data on U.S. children.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification² relates to possible hazards that may not be recognized readily by the public and that may be encountered in the normal use for which a toy is intended or after reasonably foreseeable abuse. It does not purport to cover every conceivable hazard of a particular toy. This specification does not cover product performance or quality, except as related to safety. Except for the labeling requirements pointing out the functional hazards and age range for which the toy is intended, this specification has no requirements for those aspects of a toy that present an inherent and recognized hazard as part of the function of the toy. Such an example is a sharp point necessary for the function of a needle. The needle is an inherent hazard that is well understood by the purchaser of a toy sewing kit, and this hazard is communicated to the user as part of the normal educational process.

1.2 On the other hand, while a riding toy has inherent hazards associated with its use (for example, falling off onto

the sidewalk), the possible hazards associated with its construction (sharp edges, exposed mechanisms, etc.) will be minimized by the application of this specification.

1.3 This specification covers requirements and contains test methods for toys intended for use by children in age groups through 14 years. Different age limits for various requirements will be found in this specification. These limits reflect the nature of the hazards and expected mental or physical ability, or both, of a child to cope with the hazards.

1.4 Articles not covered by this specification are as follows:

Bicycles

Tricycles

Sling shots and sharp-pointed darts

Playground equipment

Non-powder guns

Kites

Hobby and craft items in which the finished item is not primarily of play value

Model kits in which the finished item is not primarily of play value

Crayons, paints, chalks, and other similar art materials in which the material itself or the finished item is not primarily of play value, except that all art materials, whether or not a component of a toy, must comply to LHAMA, in accordance with 4.31.1–4.31.3.

Sporting goods, camping goods, athletic equipment, musical instruments, and furniture; however, toys that are their counterparts are covered. (It is recognized that

¹ This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.22 on Toy Safety.

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² The rationale for this specification may be obtained from ASTM Headquarters. Request RR:F15 – 1000. The Toy Manufacturers of America, Inc. (TMA) can provide its interpretations of this specification through its General Counsel as a service to its members and others. The TMA's interpretations are not reviewed or approved by ASTM and should be viewed as TMA's alone.