

European toy safety  
Directive 2009/48/EC:  
Going deep into the safety assessment



Empowering Trust™

According to the European toy safety Directive 2009/48/EC, before placing a product on the market, toy manufacturers shall carry out an analysis of the chemical, physical, mechanical, electrical, flammability, hygiene and radioactivity hazards that the toy may present, as well as an assessment of the potential exposure to such hazards.

The safety assessment is intended to identify and manage the hazards presented by a toy and can be carried out at any stage within the development of a product. It's advantageous to carry it out as early as possible in the development cycle and to revisit the assessment at key stages as the product changes through development.

Have you ever thought about how safety assessments can help you reduce and optimize testing, and how much it can be useful in assessing compliance with International requirements?

In the next pages you can see some examples of the main risks highlighted during a toy safety assessment by UL experts.

## Main risks highlighted during a toy safety assessment

### ARTICLE: Rattle

#### Sound Levels

EN71-1

Rattles and other noise making parts should not present a hazard through excessive noise to the user.

#### Hygiene

EN71-1, 2009/48/EC

Can the product be easily cleaned after use?

#### Small parts

EN 71-1

Assessment on small parts is done on articles intended for children <3 years old.

Small parts can be swallowed and cause a choking hazard.

#### Sharp points and sharp edges

EN 71-1

It's fundamental to assess points and edges of a toy in order to avoid the risk of laceration of children's skin.



# Main risks highlighted during a toy safety assessment

## ARTICLE: Toy intended to bear the mass of a child

### Safe use

EN71-1

Instructions and warnings for use to highlight potential dangers for the user, provision of information regarding adults supervision and other important points.

### Age Range

Assessment to determine the suitable age range of the item.

### Strength

EN 71-1

Associated risks: crushing of fingers and collapse. In abuse conditions the toy could produce hazardous sharp points and sharp edges possibly causing internal injury or skin puncture.

### Stability

EN 71-1

Toy shall not tip over when tested according to EN 71-1. Potential for head injury and other impact injuries.

### Finger Entrapment

EN71-1

Product shall not have parts which have the potential to entrap or crush fingers. Examples are hinges and wheel arrangements.



## ARTICLE: Finger paints

### Chemical hazards

EN 71-3, EN 71-7, REACH Regulation

It's fundamental to know the formulation of the toy and evaluate it against existing safety requirements.

### Microbiological hazards

EN 71-3, EN 71-7, REACH Regulation, Toy Safety directive

Toys containing aqueous media may contain bacteria, yeasts, mould, fungi, which could have adversely effects on children's health .

To learn more about how UL can support you: [CRS.UL.com](https://www.crs.ul.com)

The only purpose of this document is to highlight the main existing risks on different toy typology or to give general indications to the reader. UL has not proceeded with any safety assessment on the articles included in the pictures.

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12/18