




**GCC Standardization Organization
(GSO)**

Conformity Assessment Regulations No. (BD 07070502)


Children Toys

Issue No.1, Date: (2007.11.27)

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Introduction

1. Starting off the goals of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) aiming at achievement of integration and in conjunction among member states in all fields reaching to their unity, in agreement with the objectives of the new unified economic agreement between GCC states that laid the foundations for the common GCC market to develop common action between GCC states, and marked the steps of economic integration starting with creation of a free trade zone, then customs union, and then completion of GCC common market requirements, and ultimately the monetary and economic union as well as standardization of business, industrial and customs legislations applicable in the member states;
2. In realization of the GCC goals of creating Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO), promoting the economic integration march, going along with the customs union requirements including unification of standards and metrology in the member states, ensuring safety and quality of the goods entering GCC markets for the interests of their citizens, consolidation, follow up and implementation and unification by various standardization activities to participate in development of its production and services sectors, development of GCC intra-trade, protection of consumers, environment and public health, promotion of GCC industries and agricultural products to bolster GCC economy and maintain and preserve the gains of GCC states, and reduction of technical barriers to trade (TBT) in agreement with goals of the customs unification and GCC states concessions in World Trade Organization (WTO);
3. In implementation of the resolutions of the GCC Financial Economic and Cooperation Committee in its 72nd session (4-5 November 2006) “urging GSO to complete its efforts in setting unified procedures to apply GSO standards in GCC countries to be applied collectively in the same manner at inter-state entry ports in implementation of the customs notification requirements at the scheduled time and to streamline flow of commodities traffic”;
4. In implementation of the resolution of GSO Board of directors in its 6th session on 5 June 2007 approving commencement of implementing recommendations of the project of developing compliance verification in GCC states (RCAS) including “adoption of the concept that obligation should be based on the product essential requirements (safety, health and environment) as a basis for setting the new GCC approach to legislative obligation;
5. Whereas the laws and Regulations and control procedures applicable in the member states on safety features of Children toys vary in scope and content leading to barriers to trade and difference in tender conditions in the desired GCC common market, without tangible return of this difference on customer protection against the hazards that may arise from these products;

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6. Whereas barriers to the desired GCC common market should be lifted to allow selling of safe products with sufficient safety;

7. Whereas consistency and adaptation should be achieved through specifying the basic requirements and the unified rules between the GCC member states regarding consumer health and safety required in toys to allow placing them on the market and free movement in the customs union territory;

8. Whereas the scientific opinion as for the toxicity and environmental toxicity of toys (chemical components) has been taken into account regarding its hygienic effect on children;

9. Whereas the toys placed on the desired common market should not cause harm to the direct user or other parties;


10. Whereas the children toys should specify their criteria of minimum use limit, and should allow higher limits to cover any unseen conditions into account in view of children conduct that is less careful than adult behavior;

11. Whereas safety standards of children toys should be considered when placed on the market taking into account the requirement to abide thereby during the specified normal period of use for children toys;

12. And whereas GSO is entrusted with developing, approval, updating and publishing of GCC technical Regulations and standards together with procedures of GCC compliance verification for commodities, products, measurement and calibration instruments, definitions, technical symbols and terminology, and requirements of sampling, inspection, testing and calibration in accordance with the executive bylaws issued thereof,

These Regulations of children toys have been issued stating the basic requirements to be met in children toys manufactured locally or imported to any of GCC states. Any of these products shall be allowed to be freely distributed in GCC member states market without impediment in custom ports unless there are reasons other than nonconformity to basic essential requirements.

Note: This introduction and all annexes are integral part of these Regulations.

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Article (1)

- 1- These Regulations are concerned with children toys. Toy shall be meant as any product or material designed or clearly intended for use in play by children of less than 14 years of age.
- 2- For the purposes of these Regulations, the products outlined in Annex (1) should not be regarded as toys.

Article (2)

- 1- These Regulations aim at protecting toys' users as well as the surrounding persons against health hazards and physical injury when used in their intended or anticipated uses taking into consideration the normal behavior of children.
- 2- Children toys shall meet the requirements stated in these Regulations if they are placed on the markets of GCC states taking into account the expected age of usage of Toys.
- 3- Member states shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the children toys presented or available in GCC markets comply with the essential requirements specified in Annex (2).


Note – Placing products on markets includes both sales and distribution activities.

Article(3)

All member states shall take all necessary measures to ensure free movement of toys complying with the requirements of article (2) and Annex (2) of these Regulations (Essential Requirements of Toys) and they shall never be prevented under the pretext of safety.

Article (4)

- 1- Children toys manufactured according to the Gulf standards or the standards to be specified by GSO should meet the essential requirements outlined in these Regulations.
- 2- All GCC states shall regard the toys bearing the Gulf Conformity Mark (or any other equivalent marks) as complying with the requirements of these Regulations (including Conformity Verification procedures).

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Article (5)


- 1- In case any one member state finds out that the mentioned standards never include all essential requirements of these Regulations, then this matter shall be submitted to the GSO for study and discussion.
- 2- After studying the matter and making decision, member states shall be notified to update their standards, if necessary.

Article (6)

- 1- If a member state confirms that some toys bearing the Gulf Conformity Mark (or any other equivalent published mark) may compromise the health and safety of its users, then it shall immediately take whatever measures to withdraw these products from the market and notify GSO of this indicating the non-conformity result that is either:
 - a) Non-compliance of the essential requirements of these Regulations /or the standard
 - b) Wrong application of the standard
 - c) Shortcomings and weakness points of the standard.
- 2- GSO shall study the matter with other member states. If results prove that the measures taken by the concerned state are valid, GSO shall take the necessary action in accordance with the requirements of article (5).

Article (7)

- 1- The Gulf Conformity Mark (or any other equivalent published mark) shall be stuck on children toys – or on their packs – manufactured according to the Gulf standards or other standards specified by GSO before placing them on markets of GCC states. This procedure is deemed as a confirmation by the manufacturer (or his authorized representative) that these toys comply with the essential requirements of these Regulations.
- 2- The manufacturer or his authorized representative shall maintain the technical file that contains the following information and let it be ready upon inspection:

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2.1 Description of the method (e.g. test report..) through which the manufacturer confirms that the products are complying with the requirements of article (2) and shall keep, if appropriate, a type certificate (or alternative mark) issued by an accredited body “and” copies of documents provided by the manufacturer to the accredited body “and” a description of the test through which the manufacturer prove compliance with the approved type.


2.2 Addresses and places of manufacturing and storage

2.3 Detailed information on product design and manufacturing

- 3- If the manufacturer or his representative is from outside GCC states, the importer that brings these products into GCC markets shall be responsible for proving the conformity of their products with the requirements of paragraph (2).
- 4- As for non-conformities, member states may impose costs of any test on the manufacturer or his representative to ensure that his products meet the requirements of paragraph (1) of this article.

Article (8)

- 1- The manufacturer shall stick/print the Gulf Conformity Mark (or any other equivalent published mark) on toys – or on their packs – not wholly or partially manufactured according to the Gulf standards or standards specified by GSO. This procedure is deemed as a confirmation by the manufacturer (or his representative) that he adopts one of the conformity verification methods mentioned in Annex (3) through one of the bodies accredited and published by GSO.
- 2- In this case, the manufacturer or his authorized representative shall maintain the following information and let it be available on inspection:
 - 2.1 Description of the product.
 - 2.2 Description of the method (e.g. test report or technical file) through which the manufacture ensures that the tested samples are complying.
 - 2.3 Addresses and places of manufacturing and storage.
 - 2.4 Copies of documents submitted by the manufacturer to the accredited body pursuant to article (7).
 - 2.5 Test certificate of the sample or copy thereof.

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- 3- If the manufacturer or his representative is from outside GCC states, the body that brings these products into GCC markets shall be responsible for proving the conformity of these products with the requirements of article (2).
- 4- As for non-conformities, member states may impose costs of any test on the manufacturer or his representative to ensure that his products meet the requirements of paragraph (1) of this article.

Article (9)

Selection of the manufacturer or his representative shall be made according to Reference No.15 of Annex (4).

Article (10)

- 1) Type test (if required) means that an accredited body shall check and confirm that the toy type is complying with the essential requirements of Annex (2) of these Regulations.
 - 2) The manufacturer or his authorized representative in GCC states shall submit the “type test” application to the accredited body
 - 3 The application shall comprise:
 - 3.1 Description of the toy
 - 3.2 Name and address of the manufacturer or his representative and manufacturing place.
 - 3.3 Details of the toy technical design and the sample.
 - 4 The accredited body shall conduct conformity verification procedures as follows:
 - 4.1 The accredited body shall ensure that all required documents are available.
 - 4.2 The accredited body shall ensure that the toy is not hazardous to the user’s health and safety.
 - 4.3 The accredited body shall conduct all necessary tests (according to the Gulf standards or the standards to be specified by GSO as well as any other equivalent standards) to confirm that the type meets the requirements of these Regulations.
 - 4.4 The accredited body may request additional types for further verification.
 - 5- If the type passes tests, the accredited body shall issue the Conformity Certificate for such type.
- However, any of GCC member states can- via GSO- obtain a copy of such certificate.

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Article (11)

As for the Conformity mark (shape, way of sticking, etc), reference shall be made to Annex (4)

Article (12)

Standardization bodies of GCC states shall be responsible for sampling, market surveys and making reports on the application of these Regulations.

Article (13)

Member states shall notify the GSO of all measures taken in order to implement these Regulations so as to help GSO check for inconsistency of the measures taken throughout all GCC states.

Article (14)

GSO shall be notified of any matter related to withdrawal or suspension of any product that falls under these Regulations within GCC states.


Article (15)

Member states shall adopt these Regulations as of

Member states shall enforce the provisions of these Regulations as of

Member states shall abide by these Regulations as of


Member states shall send a copy of their national laws issued in the light of these Regulations to GSO.

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Annex (1)

Products not to be Considered as Children Toys

- 1- Decorative Lighting.
- 2- Scale models for adult collectors.
- 3- Playground equipment.
- 4- Sports equipment.
- 5- Aquatic equipment intended to be used in deep water.
- 6- Folk's dolls and decorative dolls and similar articles for adult collectors.
- 7- Professional toys installed in public places(Shopping centers, Stations, Airports etc)
- 8- Puzzles with more than 500 pieces or without picture, intended for specialist.
- 9- Air guns and air pistols.
- 10- Fireworks.
- 11- Slings and catapults.
- 12- Sets of darts with metallic points.
- 13- Electric ovens, irons or other functional products operated at a nominal voltage exceeding 24V.
- 14- Products containing heating elements intended for use under the supervision of an adult in a teaching context.
- 15- Vehicles and planes with internal combustion engines.
- 16- Toy steam engines.
- 17- Bicycles designed for sport or travelling on highways.
- 18- Video toys that can be connected to a video screen operated at a nominal voltage exceeding 24V.
- 19- Babies' dummies.
- 20- Faithful reproductions of real firearms.
- 21- Fashion Jewellery for children


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Annex (2)

Essential Requirements of Toys


1. General Principles

Serial	Essential Requirements
1	<p>The users of toys as well as surrounding persons shall be protected against health hazards and risk of physical injury when toys are used as intended or in a foreseeable way, bearing in mind the normal behavior of children. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- The risks which are related to the design, construction or composition of the toy. b- The risks which are inherent in the use of the toy and cannot be completely eliminated by modifying the toy's construction and composition without altering its function or depriving it of its essential properties
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a- The degree of risk present in the use of a toy shall be commensurate with the ability of the users, and where appropriate their supervisors, to cope with it. This applies in particular to toys which by virtue of their functions, dimensions and characteristics are intended for use by children under 36 months. b- For the purpose of this principle, a minimum age for users of toys and/or the need to ensure that they are used only under adult supervision shall be specified where appropriate.
3	<p>Label of toy or its pack shall bring the attention of users or supervisors to the toy-related risks when used and ways to avoid such risks.</p>
4	<p>No toy, or its pack, shall contain images and/or figures that profane the Islamic religion</p>

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2. Physical and mechanical properties


Serial	Essential requirements
1	In the case of fixed toys, toys and their parts and anchorages, shall have the required mechanical strength and stability to withstand the stresses to which they are subjected during use without breaking or becoming liable to distortion that may cause physical injuries.
2	Accessible edges, protrusions, cords, cables and fastenings on toys shall be so designed and constructed that the risks of physical injury from contact with them are reduced as far as possible.
3	Toys shall be so designed and constructed as to minimize the risk of physical injury which could be caused by the movement of their parts.
4	As for toys, component parts and any their detachable parts which are clearly intended for use by children under 36 months, they shall be of such dimensions as to prevent their being swallowed or inhaled.
5	Toys, parts and packs intended for retail sale shall not present risk of strangulation or suffocation
6	Toys intended for use in shallow water and which are capable of carrying or supporting a child onto the water shall be designed and constructed so as to reduce as far as possible any risk of loss of buoyancy of the toy and loss of support afforded to the child, taking into account the recommended use of the toy.
7	Toys which it is possible to get inside and which thereby constitute an enclosed space for occupants shall have a means of exit which can be opened easily from the inside in case of an emergency.
8	Toys having mobility on their users shall, as far as possible, incorporate a braking system which suits the type of toy and proportionate with the kinetic energy developed by it. The system shall be easily operated by the user without being subjected to risk of ejection or physical injury.
9	The shape, construction and kinetic energy of ejections when launched from toys designed for this purpose shall ensure that no possible injury be made for the user or other party.
10	Toys containing heating elements shall be so constructed so as to ensure

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Serial	Essential requirements
	<p>the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum temperature of any accessible surface does not cause burns when touched. • Liquids and gases contained within toys do not reach temperatures or pressures which are such that their leakage (other than for reasons essential to the proper functioning of the toy), might cause burns, scalds or other physical injury.

3. Flammability

Serial	Essential Requirements
1	<p>Toys shall not constitute a dangerous flammable element in the child's environment. They shall therefore be composed of materials with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- They do not burn if directly exposed to a flame, spark or any other potential cause of fire; or 2- They are not readily flammable (the flame goes out as soon as the fire cause disappears); or 3- If they do ignite , they should burn slowly and present a low rate of spread of the flame; or 4- Irrespective of the toy's chemical composition, they shall be treated so as to delay the combustion process. <p>These combustible materials shall not constitute a risk of ignition for other materials used in the toy.</p>
2	<p>Toys which - for functional reasons - contain dangerous substances or preparations, particularly the materials and equipment for chemical experiments, model assembly, plastic or ceramic molding, enameling, photography, or similar activities, shall not contain substances or preparations which may become flammable due to the loss of non-flammable volatile components.</p>
3	<p>Toys shall not be explosive nor contain elements or substances likely to explode when used. This provision shall not apply to the percussion cap of toys. Therefore, refer to Paragraph (3).</p>


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Serial	Essential Requirements
4	<p>Toys and chemical games shall not contain such substances or preparations that :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When mixed may explode through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - chemical reactions or through heating, or - When mixed with oxidizing substances 2- Contain volatile components which are flammable in air and liable to form flammable or explosive vapor/air mixture.

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4. Chemical Properties

Serial	Essential Requirements
1	No toys or their packs shall contain any of pig derivatives
2	<p>Toys shall be so designed and constructed that, when placed on the market, they shall not present health hazards or risks of physical injury by ingestion, inhalation or contact with the skin, mucous tissues or eyes.</p> <p>The toys shall comply with the relevant local legislations relating to certain categories of products or to the prohibition, restriction of use or labeling of certain dangerous substances and preparations.</p>
3	<p>In order to protect the children health, the bioavailability resulting from the use of toys as target, shall not exceed the following levels/day:</p> <p>0.2µg for antimony 0.1µg for arsenic 25.0µg for barium 0.6µg for cadmium 0,3µg for chromium 0.7µg for lead 0.5µg for mercury 5.0µg for selenium</p> <p>Or other values that may be laid down for these substances or other substances in GSO local legislations based on scientific evidence.</p> <p>Note: Bioavailability means the quantity of such substances that is absorbed in the human body and that is soluble and highly poisonous.</p>
4	<p>Toys shall not contain dangerous substances or preparations in amounts which may harm the health of children using them. In all cases, it is strictly prohibited that no toys shall contain hazardous materials or preparations if they are inherent in the use of the toy itself.</p> <p>Toys, which for reasons essential to their functioning, containing dangerous substances or preparations, in particular materials and equipment for chemistry experiments, model assembly, plastic or ceramic molding, enameling, photography, or similar activities, are permitted up to a maximum concentration level to be defined for each substance or preparation.</p>

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5. Electrical Properties

Serial	Essential Requirements
1	Electrical toys and its parts shall not be powered by electricity of a nominal voltage exceeding 24 Volts.
2	Parts of toys - which are connected to, or liable to come into contact with the electricity supply capable of causing electric shock, together with the supply cables or other conductors through which electricity is conveyed to such parts- shall be properly insulated and mechanically protected so as to prevent the risk of electric shock.
3	Electric toys shall be so designed and constructed as to ensure that the maximum temperatures reached by all exposed and directly accessible surfaces are not such as to cause burns when touched.

6. Hygienic Requirements


Serial	Essential Requirements
1	Toys shall be so designed and manufactured as to meet the requirements of hygienic and cleanliness requirements in order to avoid any risk of infection, diseases and contamination.

7. Radioactivity


Serial	Essential Requirements
1	Toys shall not contain radioactive elements or substances in forms or quantity likely to affect child's health.

8. Marking and labeling

Serial	Essential Requirements
	Each toy or its pack shall be indelibly marked with the following information (or any other information stated in GCC legislations) in Arabic and English:
1	Manufacturer's name and/or trademark and place of production
2	Recommended Child's age that is suitable for the toy
3	It shall mention whether the toys should be played under the supervision or control by adults
4	Batch no. (Code 9)

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9- Instructions Manual Requirements

Serial	Essential Requirements
	<p>Toys shall be accompanied by warnings that are legible, durable, and readily comprehensible written in Arabic or in both Arabic and English in order to reduce inherent risks in their use as described in the essential requirements specifically for:</p>
1	<p>Toys not intended for children less than 36 months</p> <p>For toys that might be dangerous to children under 36 months, the following warning shall be marked adequately both on the instruction sheet and on the toys or their packages, “NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 36 months” or not suitable for children under three years. The instructions sheet shall explain the reasons why they are not suitable for such children.</p> <p>Toys that seem to be unsuitable for children less than 36 months are exempted from such provision, taking into account their functions, dimensions, properties and characteristics or any other justified reasons.</p> <p>The age warning shall be written as stated above or by the use of the symbol presented in the figure below.</p> <div data-bbox="711 1339 1057 1654" data-label="Image">  <p align="center">Figure 1. Age warning symbol</p> </div> <p align="center">Age warning symbol</p>
2	<p>Slides , suspended swings and rings, trapezes, ropes and similar toys</p> <p>These toys shall be accompanied by a guiding diagram to draw the</p>



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Serial	Essential Requirements
	<p>attention to the need to perform checks and maintenance of the main parts (suspension tools, fasteners, etc) at intervals and point out that if these checks are not carried out, they may fall or overturn. Instructions shall also be given as to the correct assembly and installation of the toy, indicating those parts which can present dangers if they are incorrectly assembled.</p>
3	<p>Functional Toys Functional toys or their packs shall bear the marking “Warning” and “To be used under direct supervision of an adult”.</p> <p>In addition, toys shall be accompanied by instructions giving working instructions as well as the precautions to be taken by the user along with the warning that the failure to take these precautions would expose the user to hazards. These instructions are normally accompanied with the appliance or the product of which the toy is a scale model or an imitation.</p> <p>It should also be indicated that the toy should not be within reach of very young children.</p> <p>“Functional toys” are such toys that are used in the same way and which are usually scale models for the equipment and appliances intended for adults.</p>
4	<p>Chemical toys and toys containing inherent hazardous materials and preparations</p> <p>a- Without prejudice to the provisions of the guiding manuals related to the classification, packaging and marking of hazardous materials and preparations, the instructions for the use of toys containing inherently dangerous substances or preparations shall bear a warning of the dangerous nature of these substances or preparations and an indication of the precautions to be taken by the user in order to avoid hazards associated with them which shall be specified briefly according to the type of toy. It shall also be mentioned what is the first aid that should be provided in case of severe accidents. It shall be also indicated that the toys shall be kept out of</p>



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Serial	Essential Requirements
	<p>reach of very young children.</p> <p>b- Added to the instructions stated above in paragraph (1), the chemical toys shall bear the following markings on their packs:</p> <p>“Warning : “Only for children over (*) years of age”, “To be used under adult supervision”.</p> <p>In particular, the following toys are deemed as chemical toys: Chemistry equipment, plastic equipment, small workshops of ceramics, enameling, coating or photography and similar toys.</p> <p>(*) age to be specified by the manufacturer.</p>
5	<p>Slides and slides boards of children</p> <p>In case these products are displayed for sale as toys, they shall be marked by the following markings: “Warning : “Protective Devices Should Be Worn”</p> <p>In addition, these toys shall be accompanied by instructions indicating that they should be used carefully since they need high skills so as to avoid fall or overturn causing injury to the users or third parties. Instructions should be given on the recommended protective devices (helmets, gloves, knee bags, elbow bags, etc).</p>
6	<p>Toys intended for use in water</p> <p>Toys intended for use in water mentioned in paragraph (f) of serial 29 in sub clause 4.2 (Physical and Mechanical Properties) shall contain a “Warning” that is complying with the standard mentioned in reference (11)</p> <p>“Warning! Only to be used in water in which the child is within its depth and under supervision”.</p>

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Annex (3)

Conformity Assessment Procedures

To obtain the Gulf Conformity Mark, toys shall pass successfully one of the following options:


First option: Internal Production Monitoring Module “A”

This module includes the design and internal production monitoring. It never requires that an accredited body (notified body) to perform any verifications, and considered as self - declaration of conformity (SDoC)

Second option: Model Test design phase, Module (B) , followed by a conformity module “C” for assessment of production phase.

Refer GSO guide for Conformity Assessment Procedures to check for the conformity verification serials and procedures indicated in (Annex 4)


This means that the manufacturer shall be entitled to choose the appropriate option to obtain the Gulf Conformity Mark, i.e., he can choose either module “A” that never requires an accredited body or combine both module “B” that requires an accredited body and module “C” that never requires such body.

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Annex (4)

References

Serial	Standard/Document No./Date		Name of Standard/Document
	Gulf	Others	
1	GSO 577		Toys – General Safety Requirements
2	GSO 578		Methods of Testing Toys- Part 1: Mechanical and Chemical tests.
3	GSO 579		Methods of Testing Toys – Part 2: Flammability
4		EN71-2	Safety of Toys – Part 2 : Flammability
5		EN71-1	Safety of Toys – Part 1: Mechanical and Physical Properties
6		EN71-10	Safety of Toys – Part 10: Organic and Chemical Compounds – Sample Preparation and Extraction
7		EN71-11	Safety of Toys – Part 11: Organic and Chemical Compounds – Methods of Analysis
8		EN71-3	Safety of Toys – Part 3 : Migration of Certain Elements
9		EN71-4	Safety of Toys – Part 4 : Experimental sets for Chemistry and related activities
10		EN71-5	Safety of Toys – Part 5 : Chemical Toys (sets) Other than Experimental Sets
11		EN71-6	Safety of Toys – Part 6 : Graphical Symbol for Age Warning Labeling
12		EN71-7	Safety of Toys – Part 7 : Fingerprints – Requirements and Testing Methods
13		EN71-8	Slides of Toys – Part 8: Swings, Slides and Toys of Similar Indoor and

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	Gulf	Others	
			Outdoor Activities
14		EN71-9	Safety of Toys – Part 9: Organic and Chemical Compounds – Requirements
15			Guide of Accredited Bodies
16			Conformity Compliance Forms Guide
17			Unified Guide for Customs Release and Registration of Products
18			Conformity Mark Regulations for GCC States