

October 26, 2024

State Administration for Market Regulation of the People's Republic of China
(Standardization Administration of the P.R.C.)
No.9 Madian Donglu,
Haidian District
Beijing, China
100088

VIA U.S. TBT enquiry point

RE: Notification G/TBT/N/CHN/1887 – General Safety Requirements for Children's Product

Dear Sir/Madam:

These comments are provided on behalf of The Toy Association, and our 900+ members, in response to the People's Republic of China's notification (G/TBT/N/1887) to the World Trade Organization on August 27, 2024. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and thank the Standardization Administration of the P.R.C. for inviting input via the WTO TBT network, consistent with China's obligations under the WTO *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade*.

We applaud the Standardization Administration of the P.R.C. of its proposal to bolster its general safety requirements for products intended for use by children under 14 years of age. Safety is a paramount concern for the U.S. toy industry, as evidenced by the fact that the industry and The Toy Association have been global leaders in toy safety for decades. The Toy Association continues to work with medical experts, governments, consumers, and industry to provide technical input to ensure that the ISO 8124, EN71, ASTM F963, IEC 62115, and other international and domestic standards/regulations keep pace with innovation and potential emerging issues and are aligned as closely as possible, taking into consideration legal mandates.

The Standardization Administration's proposed general requirements on product safety lay out important prohibitions and approaches to ensuring consumer product safety for children. The Toy Association commends the Standardization Administration on its effort to initiate this policy in pursuit of broaden its product safety regime. The provisions compliment and reaffirm many well-established and effective product safety standards that are already in place.

While we recognize that the Standardization Administration's proposed standard states that it does not list all safety technical characteristic requirements of children's products (Section 4.1.2), it would be beneficial if the new standard specified product categories and each supporting safety standards for these categories. Affirming each unique product categories, such as for "toys" (GB 6675), and each supporting safety standard for that category, will help assert clarity and reinforce the desired public policy result that the Standardization Administration is seeking. It is common practice amongst international law makers to include a detailed account of all supporting provisions that are associated with a broad product safety-based standard, regulation, or legislation. Incorporating this information within the structure of a broad product safety standard helps to ensure clarity and understanding of all supporting activities and expectations. The resulting effect for the marketplace is a responsible, transparent, and consistent application of all necessary product safety standards designed to protect children.

Recognizing the extensive toy safety standards that are already in place we would ask that the Standardization Administration expressly list “toys” (GB 6675) as one of these product categories and the corresponding standards that are applied in pursuit of product safety. Again, ensuring such clarity within the Standardization Administration’s new product safety standard will assist users and support the guiding policy principles of the proposed standard.

We thank the Standardization Administration of the P.R.C. for the opportunity to comment on its proposal. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Joan Lawrence. I can be reached at jhuxley@toyassociation.org, and Ms. Lawrence can be reached at jlawrence@toyassociation.org.

Sincerely,



Jos Huxley
Senior Vice President, Technical Affairs

About The Toy Association and the toy industry:

The Toy Association is the North American based trade association; our membership includes more than 900+ businesses – from inventors and designers of toys to toy manufacturers and importers, retailers, and safety testing labs – all involved in bringing safe, fun toys and games to children. The toy sector is a global industry of more than US\$90 billion annually, and our members account for more than half this amount.

Toy safety is the top priority for The Toy Association and its members. Since the 1930s, we have served as leaders in global toy safety efforts; in the 1970s we helped to create the first comprehensive toy safety standard, which was later adopted under the auspices of ASTM International as ASTM F963. The ASTM F963 Toy Safety Standard has been recognized in the United States and internationally as an effective safety standard, and it serves as a model for other countries looking to protect the health and safety of their citizens with protective standards for children.

The Toy Association is committed to working with legislators and regulators around the world to reduce barriers to trade and to achieve the international alignment and harmonization of risk-based standards that will provide a high level of confidence that toys from any source can be trusted as safe for use by children. Standards alignment assures open markets between nations to maximize product availability and choice.