

Limited review of the aquatic toys mandatory standard

Overview

The ACCC invites you to have your say on proposed updates to the mandatory safety standard for aquatic toys – [Consumer Goods \(Aquatic Toys\) Safety Standard 2020](#). The mandatory standard first came into effect in 1986 and was last updated in 2020.

The mandatory standard covers requirements for safety and labelling for aquatic toys for use in play in shallow water and able to bear the mass of a child under the age of 14. This includes inflatable and non-inflatable aquatic toys and items that can be worn or attached to the body. The mandatory standard does not apply to beach balls, body boards, kickboards, surfboards, inflatable airbeds and inflatable boats for use in deep water.

About this review

We are conducting a limited review of the mandatory standard for aquatic toys. The purpose of this limited review is to:

- update the mandatory standard to reference the latest version of the voluntary international and Australian standards for safety of toys.
- determine if adding dynamic references is appropriate – so updates to the referenced voluntary standards flow through to the mandatory standard.

We have not identified any additional overseas or international standards that offer a comparable level of safety and are suitable to reference as compliance options in the mandatory standard.

Significant changes such as altering the scope of the mandatory standard or other major requirements (such as performance measures) are not being considered in this review. These may be considered in a future comprehensive review.

We welcome your feedback on the options listed in this consultation.

You can read more about the reforms to the mandatory standard framework and limited reviews on the [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

How to make a submission

Interested parties are invited to comment on this consultation.

Submissions are due by **Friday 12 December 2025**.

This consultation survey should take about 20 minutes to complete. You can save your answers and return at any time to complete your submission. You do not need to complete all questions to make a valid submission.

You will be able to provide supporting documentation (if required) at the end of the consultation.

We prefer interested parties respond to the questions using the online survey linked at the bottom of this page.

If you are unable to make your submission through the ACCC Consultation Hub, you can post or email your submission to:

Director
Standards Reform Team
Consumer Product Safety Division
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131 Canberra ACT 2601

Email: ProductSafety.Regulation@accc.gov.au

If you are emailing or posting your submission, please include your name, organisation (if any) and contact details when making a submission.

Our preference is for submissions to be in electronic format (such as MS Word or PDF) that is text searchable and allows a 'copy and paste' function.

Publication of submissions

All submissions will be treated as public documents and published on the [ACCC Consultation Hub](#) in accordance with the [ACCC's Information Policy](#), unless otherwise requested.

Any parties wishing to submit commercial-in-confidence material should clearly mark it as such and submit both a public version and commercial-in-confidence version of their submission, with reasons explaining why it is confidential. More information about the ACCC's treatment of confidential information can be found in the [ACCC's Information Policy](#).

Next steps after consultation

We will review submissions and determine our recommendation to the Minister about updating the mandatory standard.

We may consult with stakeholders again before the mandatory standard is finalised and will publish the outcome of this limited review on the [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

Accessibility

If you have any difficulty accessing any of the information on this page, please refer to our website's accessibility information. Alternatively, contact us by email at ProductSafety.Regulation@accc.gov.au or phone 1300 302 502 Monday to Friday between 11 am and 3 pm AEDT.

Background information

This page provides background information about the questions in this survey. You can save your answers and come back to this page at any time when completing this survey.

About the aquatic toys mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for aquatic toys was first introduced in 1986 to ensure aquatic toys supplied in Australia have key safety features and labelling to reduce the risk of serious injury or death to children from drowning.

The mandatory standard was last updated in 2020. It references parts of the voluntary international standard for safety of toys (ISO 8124-1:2018) and the voluntary Australian Standard for safety of toys (AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2019). These voluntary standards were updated in 2022 and 2023, respectively. The voluntary Australian Standard is a direct adoption of the international standard.

Find out more about the mandatory standard on the [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

Consultation issues

Retain the current mandatory safety standard (maintain the status quo)

If the status quo is maintained, there would be no change to the mandatory standard, and it will continue to reference the 2018 voluntary international standard and the 2019 voluntary Australian Standard. These voluntary standards have been superseded.

Maintaining the status quo would mean that the mandatory standard would not reference the latest voluntary international and Australian standards. Businesses would not be able supply products that comply with the updated voluntary international and Australian standards, unless they have additionally met the 2018 voluntary international standard and the 2019 voluntary Australian Standard.

Consumers will have the same level of protection they have now but may miss out on safety improvements provided by the updated versions of the voluntary international and Australian standards.

Referencing the updated voluntary international and Australian standards

We are consulting to determine the suitability of the updated versions of the referenced voluntary international and Australian standards before making a recommendation to the Minister.

The mandatory standard for aquatic toys references Clause 4.20 and Annex B.2.6 of the 2018 voluntary international standard and the 2019 voluntary Australian Standard. Clause 4.20 covers safety requirements for aquatic toys and Annex B.2.6 provides labelling requirements.

Where a mandatory standard allows for more than one voluntary standard, or one version of a voluntary standard as a compliance option, suppliers can be required by the mandatory standard to include information on which compliance option(s) the product complies with.

This compliance information could be marked on the product itself, the packaging, or in information provided with the product.

Allowing mandatory standard references to be dynamic

Mandatory standards can reference one or more voluntary standards. Voluntary standards are updated from time-to-time. Ordinarily, a mandatory standard would reference only the version of the voluntary standard that was in place when the reference was introduced into the mandatory standard.

Dynamic referencing means that the mandatory standard references a voluntary standard as it exists from time-to-time. This will allow updates to the referenced voluntary standard to flow through to the mandatory standard, keeping pace with global product safety developments.

We propose allowing a 6-month review period before any updates to a referenced voluntary standard take effect in the mandatory standard. During this time, we will review these updates to ensure they are appropriate.

We can recommend to the Minister to stop an update to a voluntary standard taking effect in the mandatory standard, where necessary.

Transition periods

Appropriate transition periods in the mandatory standard allow for:

- changes arising from this review to take effect
- superseded versions of the referenced standards remaining as compliance options for a specified time.

Transition periods allow businesses to:

- sell existing stock
- make manufacturing and design changes
- undertake testing to ensure compliance with an updated standard.

About you

You can save your responses in this survey and come back anytime to complete it.

Personal information collection notice

The [ACCC](#) will handle personal information collected in this survey in accordance with the [Australian Privacy Principles](#).

If you choose to enter your email address, it will be used to acknowledge receipt of your survey responses, to provide you with a copy of those responses and for the purpose of contacting you in relation to your survey responses. It will not be disclosed without your consent, except where authorised or required by law.

Information about how to access and/or correct your personal information, and how to lodge a complaint in relation to the use or disclosure of your personal information, is set out in our [privacy policy](#) on our website.

1. What is your name?

Name:

2. What is your email address?

This information will not be published. If you enter your email address you will receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response. We'll email you if we need to ask more questions about your submission.

Email:

3. What is your organisation? (if applicable)

Organisation:

4. Do you consent to the ACCC publishing your submission?

Please select one option (**required**)

- Yes
- No
- Yes, but do not publish my name.

You are responsible for ensuring there is no information in your submission that can disclose your identity.

5. Do you agree that the mandatory standard for aquatic toys should be updated?

- Yes – continue with the survey to consider options for updating the mandatory standard.
- No, maintain the status quo.

If you selected no, please provide reasoning. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Provide reasoning.

Currently referenced voluntary standards

The mandatory standard for aquatic toys (**mandatory standard**) references the 2018 version of the voluntary international standard (ISO 8124-1:2018) and the 2019 version of the voluntary Australian Standard (AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2019). These voluntary standards were updated in 2022 and 2023, respectively. The voluntary Australian Standard is a direct adoption of the voluntary international standard.

All questions on this page relate to the 2022 version of the voluntary international standard and the 2023 version of the voluntary Australian Standard that relate to aquatic toys.

6. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should be updated to reference the 2022 version of the voluntary international standard and the 2023 version of the voluntary Australian Standard that relate to aquatic toys?
- Yes
 - No

If you wish, you can provide information or recommendations to support your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

7. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference the 2022 voluntary international standard and the 2023 voluntary Australian Standard as they are updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing)?
- Yes
 - No

If you wish, you can provide information to support your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Transition periods, compliance information and impacts on business

Each question relates to the mandatory standard for aquatic toys.

8. Transition periods allow time for suppliers to move from compliance with an older version of the standard to the new one. If the mandatory standard is updated to reference the 2022 version of the voluntary international standard and the 2023 version of the voluntary Australian standard following this review, for how long should compliance with the 2018 and 2019 versions of those voluntary standards be allowed?

Provide your response below.

9. Where a new version of a referenced voluntary standard is published in the future, how long should the superseded version remain as a compliance option?

Provide your response below.

10. Do you agree that product packaging or information provided with the product should state which referenced voluntary standard the product complies with?

- Yes
- No

If you wish, you can provide information to support your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

11. If you answered 'yes' to Question 10, how should suppliers state which referenced standard the product complies with?

- A label attached to the product
- Information labelled on product packaging
- Information provided with the product – can be included with other product information such as user instructions
- Any of the above
- Other – provide more information below

If you wish, you can provide information to support your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

12. Referencing the updated voluntary international and Australian standards and making mandatory standards dynamic removes the need to test products to outdated requirements.

Please provide any information, analysis or data about impacts on compliance costs and regulatory burden if the mandatory standard is updated.

You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Uploading supporting documentation

13. Upload supporting documents

Our preference is for supporting documentation to be in electronic format (such as MS Word or PDF) that is text searchable and allows a 'copy and paste' function. Clearly label all documentation that is commercial-in-confidence.

Upload your supporting information

Please make sure your file is under 25MB

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Almost done...

You are about to submit your response. By clicking 'Submit Response' you give us permission to analyse and include your response in our results. After you click Submit, you will no longer be able to go back and change any of your answers.

If you choose to provide your email below, you will receive a response from the email address **no-reply@mail1.citizenspace.com**.

If you provide an email address you will be sent a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

Email address: