

# Consultation - Proposed updates to the mandatory standard for toys containing magnets

## Overview

The ACCC invites you to have your say on the proposed updates to the mandatory standard for toys containing magnets ([Consumer Goods \(Toys Containing Magnets\) Safety Standard 2020](#)) (**the mandatory standard**). The mandatory standard first came into effect in 2010 and was last updated in 2020.

The mandatory standard applies to new children's toys with magnets or magnetic components designed (or clearly intended) for play by children up to 14 years old. It mandates requirements for design, construction, testing and information labelling.

It does not apply to:

- sporting goods, camping goods, bicycles, home and playground equipment, trampolines, electronic game units, models powered by combustion or steam engines, and fashion jewellery for children
- magnets used in motors, relays, speakers, electrical components and similar devices where the magnetic properties are not part of the play pattern of a toy.

## About this review

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

- consider updating the mandatory standard to reference the latest versions of the voluntary Australian, international, European, and US standards, while maintaining the existing modifications
- determine if adding dynamic references is appropriate – so updates to the referenced voluntary standard flow through to the mandatory standard.

We do not believe any additional overseas or international standards exist 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.

This limited review is focused on updates to the mandatory standard and will not consider changes to the [permanent ban](#) on small high-powered magnets.

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

Submit your views using the online survey linked at the bottom of this page.

Submissions are due by **Friday 31 July 2026**.

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](mailto: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.

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

This 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.

## 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](mailto:ProductSafety.Regulation@accc.gov.au) or phone 1300 302 502 Monday to Friday between 11 am and 3pm AEST.

# Background information

## 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 toys containing magnets mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for toys containing magnets was first introduced in 2010 to reduce the risk of serious injury or death from children ingesting small high-powered magnets or magnetic components supplied with children's toys.

The mandatory standard covers requirements for design, construction, testing and information labelling. It was last updated in 2020 and references now outdated versions of the voluntary Australian, international, European and US standards.

## Permanent ban on small high-powered magnets

In 2012, following the death of a toddler who swallowed multiple small high-powered magnets, the Minister imposed a [permanent ban](#) on small, high-powered magnets that are loose or separable (that is, they are not part of a wider toy set).

This ban is distinct from the mandatory standard as it has a narrow focus on separable or loose magnetic objects supplied in multiples of two or more where the magnetic objects are, intended for use as, a toy, game or puzzle (including but not limited to an adult desk toy, an educational toy or game, a toy, game or puzzle for mental stimulation or stress relief), a construction or modelling kit, or jewellery to be worn in or around the mouth or nose.

This limited review is focused on updates to the mandatory standard and will not consider changes to the permanent ban on small high-powered magnets.

## Referenced voluntary standards

The mandatory standard was last updated in 2020 and references the following 4 standards:

- **Australian and New Zealand standard:** AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2019 Safety of toys Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties (direct adoption of the voluntary international standard)
  - clause 4.1 and 4.31 (with modifications)
- **International standard:** ISO 8124-1:2018 Safety of toys – Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties
  - clause 4.1 and 4.31 (with modifications)
- **European standard:** EN 71-1:2014+A1:2018 Safety of toys - Part 1: Mechanical and physical properties
  - clause 4.23
- **US standard:** ASTM F963-17 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety
  - clause 4.38
  - clause 8.5 and 8.9 (with modifications)

Each of these voluntary standards have been updated to newer versions. Updates to the voluntary standards are discussed in further detail below.

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 would continue to reference the outdated voluntary standards listed above. These voluntary standards have been superseded.

Maintaining the status quo would mean that the mandatory standard would not reference the latest voluntary Australian, international and overseas standards. Maintaining reference to the outdated versions presents future risks if requirements change and the updated versions are not adopted as compliance options. Under this scenario, businesses may be required to conduct additional testing to demonstrate compliance with the superseded versions referenced in the mandatory standard.

### Referencing the updated voluntary standards as compliance options

We are consulting to determine the suitability of referencing the following updated versions of the voluntary Australian, international and overseas standards before making a recommendation to the Minister:

- **Australian and New Zealand standard:** AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2023 Safety of toys Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties
- **International standard:** ISO 8124-1:2022/Amd 1:2025 Safety of toys – Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties
- **European standard:** EN 71-1:2026 Safety of toys - Part 1: Mechanical and physical properties
- **US standard:** ASTM F963-23 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety.

Each of these updated voluntary standards have identical requirements for magnets and magnetic components in toys to their individual predecessors. We are seeking stakeholder views on whether to continue to reference the relevant clauses as those currently referenced in the mandatory standard, from each of these updated voluntary standards.

### Allowing mandatory standards 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 from the time an update to a referenced voluntary standard is published before any updates take effect in the mandatory standard. During this time, the ACCC 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

### 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?

#### 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.

**3. What is your organisation? (if applicable)**

**4. Select the option that best describes your role**

- Supplier / Manufacturer / Distributor / Retailer / Wholesaler
- Industry association
- Compliance specialist
- Government organisation
- Consumer
- Other

If other, please provide details.

**5. 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.

**6. Do you agree that the mandatory standard for toys containing magnets 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

### Currently referenced voluntary standards

The mandatory standard for toys containing magnets (**mandatory standard**) references certain clauses of the following 4 voluntary standards:

- **Australian standard:** AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2019 (direct adoption of the voluntary international standard)
  - clause 4.1 and 4.31 (with modifications)
- **International standard:** ISO 8124-1:2018
  - clause 4.1 and 4.31 (with modifications)
- **European standard:** EN 71-1:2014+A1:2018
  - clause 4.23
- **US standard:** ASTM F963-17
  - clause 4.38
  - clause 8.5 and 8.9 (with modifications)

The modifications listed above tailor the relevant clauses so they focus specifically on the magnet ingestion hazard (risk of serious injury or death from small high-powered magnets) and avoid duplicating requirements that are already addressed elsewhere in the Australian product safety framework, for example, requirements for toys for children up to and including 36 months of age.

Each of these voluntary standards have been updated to newer versions as follows:

- **Australian standard:** AS/NZS ISO 8124.1:2023 (direct adoption of the voluntary international standard)
- **International standard:** ISO 8124-1:2022/Amd 1:2025

- **European standard:** EN 71-1:2026
- **US standard:** ASTM F963-23.

Each of these updated voluntary standards have identical requirements for magnets and magnetic components in toys to their predecessors.

All questions on this page relate to the updated versions of the voluntary standards that relate to toys containing magnets.

**7. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should be updated to reference relevant clauses of the 2023 voluntary Australian Standard, while maintaining the existing modifications?**

- Yes
- No

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

**8. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference the 2023 voluntary Australian Standard as it is updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing)?**

- Yes
- No

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

**9. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should be updated to reference relevant clauses of the 2022 voluntary international standard (with 2025 amendment), while maintaining the existing modifications?**

- Yes
- No

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

**10. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference the 2022 voluntary international standard (with 2025 amendment) as it is updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing)?**

- Yes
- No

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

**11. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference relevant clause(s) of the 2026 voluntary European standard?**

- Yes
- No

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

**12. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference the 2026 voluntary European standard as it is updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing)?**

- Yes
- No

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

**13. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference relevant clauses of the 2023 voluntary US standard, while maintaining the existing modifications?**

- Yes
- No

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

**14. Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference the 2023 voluntary US standard as it is updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing)?**

- Yes
- No

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

### Transition periods, compliance information and impacts on business

Each question relates to the mandatory standard for toys containing magnets.

**15. 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 updated versions of the voluntary Australian, overseas and international standards following this review, for how long should compliance with the superseded versions of those voluntary standards be allowed?**

Provide your response below.

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

Provide your response below

**17. Increasing compliance options and making mandatory standards dynamic removes the need to test products to bespoke or 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.

Provide information