TEMPLATE SUBMISSION BELOW

UK Government call for evidence on toy safety

How can you have your say?

The UK has rules in place that should ensure toys sold in shops and online are safe for children to play with. Unfortunately, these rules are not fit for purpose.

Every few months, the media covers stories of toys on the UK market that break these rules. For example, in April, a Guardian investigation showed asbestos was being used in toys ranging from play sand to stretchy toys in our high street shops. Exposure to asbestos can cause lung cancer later in life.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Our toy safety rules themselves are outdated, meaning that chemicals can **legally be used** that scientists now think could have lifelong impacts on children's health, such as the 'forever chemicals' PFAS. These chemicals have been linked to certain cancers and negative impacts on the immune system.

The government are considering updating our toy rules to better protect children from harm, especially from toxic chemicals. They are looking at whether we should introduce similar rules to the EU, which banned a wide range of toxic chemicals in toys at the end of last year.

The UK government want to hear from anyone with an interest in these changes **before the 6th October.** You could be a caregiver, parent or just concerned about the health and wellbeing of children in this country.

How to respond

- **Where can I read the call for evidence?** Click here.
- **How to send it?** There are three ways you can respond
    - You can complete this online form here.
    - Email your submission, either by including it in the email text or attaching a word document and sending it to: toys.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk
    - You can write to the following address:
      Toys Safety Regulations: Call for Evidence
      Department for Business and Trade
      Old Admiralty Building
      Admiralty Place
      London
      SW1A 2DY
- **Deadline:** 11:59pm 06 October 2026
- **You do not have to respond to all the questions. The most relevant question is Q2.**
- We have suggested a response to Q2 below, tailor this to bring in your own perspective on why we need to improve toy safety.

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Question 2: What factors should be considered if the UK Government were to implement the same approach to the EU Toy Safety Regulation 2025/2509 across the whole of the UK?

- **Overall, would you be in favour of legislation to introduce similar measures?**

  Yes.

- **What would you see as the benefits of introducing the same approach?**

Matching the EU update will better protect children's health in the UK

[AS A PARENT/CARER/GRANDPARENT/TEACHER] I am responding to this call for evidence because I am concerned about the health of children in the UK. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has warned that we risk raising one of the unhealthiest generations of children in decades. The UK government should take every opportunity to better protect children's health, including banning harmful chemicals from toys.

In 2025, the EU strengthened its old 2009 toy safety rules because it concluded that they no longer reflected the latest science on the risks posed by certain chemicals. The UK still implements the old 2009 rules and needs to keep pace with new scientific knowledge. Evidence linking hormone (endocrine)-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) to serious health conditions, including obesity, diabetes and cancer, has grown substantially. Scientific understanding of PFAS ("forever chemicals") has also increased. PFAS are widespread in the environment, and some have been linked to worrying health impacts such as cancer and liver disease. Children are particularly vulnerable to effects of harmful chemicals because they are still developing.

Worryingly, tests on toys repeatedly show these chemicals are being used. Endocrine disrupting chemicals called bisphenols have been detected in teething toys, while a recent study detected PFAS in every stuffed toy tested by researchers. It is concerning that chemicals linked to such serious health impacts can still legally be used in children's toys. I urge the Government to listen to the 50 scientific and clinical experts who have called on it to match the EU's update to toy safety rules because of their concerns about the potential impacts of these chemicals on children's health.

The Government should also strengthen enforcement and ensure that online marketplaces and retailers are not selling unsafe or illegal toys. We should not be finding toys on shelves that contain substances like asbestos, as has happened with a number of toys recalled in the UK this year.

Given the decline in children's health and the growing evidence linking exposure to harmful chemicals with serious health impacts, the Government should act without delay. The UK should match the EU's updated standards to ensure children here receive the same level of protection as children in neighbouring European countries.