

# Toy Safety Standards

There are two recognized standards that a manufacture has to abide by. One applicable to Europe, known as the EN - 71 Standards and one for Canada and U.S. known as the ASTM standards. There are only very small differences amongst these two standards.

What is applicable to wooden toys under EN 71, is standard 1, 2 and 3. A broad description of these standards are as follows:

**Standard 1** specifies Mechanical & Physical properties of the product. Mechanical test such as drop test where the product is repeatedly dropped a specific number of times from a specific height is performed to ensure its durability. Other test such as the pull test where attached parts are pulled at specified strengths off the main body and torque test where specified pressures are used to check the twisting of attached parts are performed to ensure proper attachment and strength.

Physical test such as small parts test are performed with the assistance of a choke tube which is aprox 1" in Diameter and about 3" long with a slanting separation in its middle. Any product having parts that goes through this tube fails the small parts test.

**Standard 2** specifies properties related to flammability. This is not strictly applicable to wooden toys as they focus mainly on the burning properties of certain materials. For example plastic or nylon material, which burns over and over again, cannot be used, as against cotton, which burns down to ashes. The only way it can be applicable to wooden toys is if they have some fabric attached to them.

**Standard 3** applies to the paints used and the toxic content in such paints, which cannot exceed certain levels. Test reports from the manufactures could be furnished.

In the event a manufacture adheres to these standards he could stick on the CE marking on the product.