

Legal markings and warnings on toys

Purpose

Toys in Europe need to be compliant with the European Toy Safety Directive (TSD) 2009/48/EC. Toys require certain warnings and markings.

Official definition of a toy: Any products designed or intended, whether or not exclusively, for use in play by children under 14 years of age.

Responsibilities

The person/company who markets a toy under his name or trademark is responsible for the compliance of the toy (whose address is on the toy). If a game is manufactured by Cartamundi, but it is marketed under another person's name or trademark, this person will be responsible and Cartamundi will only have an advisory role.

Requirements

When putting your toys on the market, you have to ensure that the toys have been designed and manufactured in accordance with the requirements set out in TSD 2009/48/EC. Toys always need to bear a CE-mark, identification number and contact details. This info shall be affixed to the toy. The tuckbox/gamebox will be considered as a part of the toy (retainable packaging).

Sources:

Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC

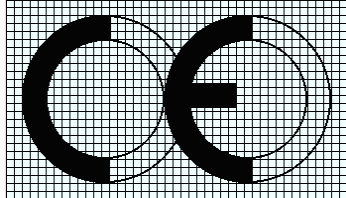
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- CE-mark → *MANDATORY on toys*

Toys made available on the EU market shall bear the CE marking. The CE marking shall consist of the initials 'CE' taking the following form:



If the CE marking is reduced or enlarged, the proportions given in the graduated drawing shall be respected. The CE marking shall be at least 5mm high.

- Identification number → *MANDATORY on toys*

Toys made available on the EU market shall bear a type, batch, serial or model number or other element allowing their identification.

If no identification number is provided by our customer, we will use an identification code based on the initials XXX of our customer and the date (XXXDDMMYYYY).

- Contact details → *MANDATORY on toys*

Manufacturers shall indicate their name, registered trade name or registered trade mark and the address at which they can be contacted on the toy.

Manufacturer means any natural or legal person who manufactures a toy or has a toy designed or manufactured, and markets that toy under his name or trademark. The definition contains two cumulative conditions: the person has to manufacture (or has a toy manufactured) and to market the toy under his own name or trademark. So, if the toy is marketed under another person's name or trademark, that person will be considered as the manufacturer.

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The address shall indicate a single point at which the manufacturer can be contacted. A website is additional information, but is not sufficient as an address. Normally an address consists of a street name and house number (or PO box and number) and the postal code and town.

▪ Age Warning

An age warning is required if there is a danger for children below 3 years of age. The age warning is required in all languages of the potential markets of the product. An age warning is not applicable on a standard playing card game.

The age warning always needs to start with the word “Warning”.

Toys which might be dangerous for children under 36 months of age shall bear a warning such as "Not suitable for children under 36 months" or "Not suitable for children under three years" or a warning in the form of the following graphic:



This warning shall be accompanied by a brief indication of the specific hazard calling for this precaution in all languages of the toy, where it is put in the market.

The details of the design of the pictogram are: the circle and the stroke shall be red, the background shall be white, the age range and the face shall be black and the size shall not be less than 10mm diameter. This symbol shall be used to indicate only "0 to 3" years and not for any other age-grade warning to avoid misinterpretation of the symbol.

The most commonly quoted indication of a specific hazard for children under 36 months is that due to small parts. These small parts present a choking hazard.

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- Age Grade

An age grade is not mandatory for toys in EU, this is only a recommendation for consumers. Please be aware that a 14+ age grade in combination with a CE-mark is in contradiction with the definition of a toy. Since toys are products for children under 14 years of age.

Sources:

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