

Toys (Safety) Regulations 1995 & BS EN 71 Safety of toys.

Toys have to be designed and made to meet safety requirements including mechanical safety, hygiene, flammability, toxic materials, choke hazards etc. Toy companies keep records to show products meet these standards. Toy retailers have to ensure their goods have labels on to show they meet the standards.

All toys must:

- Satisfy essential safety requirements set out in the regulations
- Have the CE marking preferably on the toy but on the packing if this is not possible
- Include company name and address details
- Be accompanied by warnings e.g. age appropriate labels, whether supervision is required
- Have had risk assessments and tests done on them to ensure they meet the standards

Symbols you might see on toys:



The CE Symbol

Toys must have this on them by law. It indicates the toy meets the European Toy Safety Directive. This is aimed at Trading Standards and tells them the toy is allowed to be sold in Europe. It is less relevant to the average consumer and doesn't necessarily indicate quality and safety for the consumer.



The Lion Mark

Developed by the British Toy and Hobby Association as a symbol of toy safety and quality. It can only be used by members of the BTHA. This is a voluntary symbol.



Age Appropriate Labels

One of the principles of the Lion Mark scheme is that toys are used by children of an appropriate age. This symbol indicates the toy is not suitable for a child under 3 e.g. because of a choke or suffocation hazard.



The Kitemark

Some toys also carry the British Standards Institute Kitemark. This indicates the toy has been independently tested and complies with BS EN 71.

Things to do:

- Look at toys to see the labels in use both on the product and on the packaging
- Visit www.toyretailersassociation.co.uk and <http://www.bsieducation.org/Education/14-19/toys/default.shtml> to find out more about toy safety
- Find out what tests might be carried out to check a toy is safe
- How do these symbols add value to the product for the consumer?