

Telephone: 07 3900 XXXX

Reference: XXXX

Reviewer
Product Safety Regulations
Public consultation on toys containing magnets mandatory safety standard
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Via email: XXXX

Dear Reviewer

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (the Commission) welcomes the consultation by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on the proposed updates to the mandatory standard for toys containing magnets ([Consumer Goods \(Toys Containing Magnets\) Safety Standard 2020](#)) (the mandatory standard).

If a child swallows or inserts a magnet, it can result in catastrophic injuries and even death. The Commission is the custodian of the Queensland Child Death Register, which has recorded information about the circumstances in which a child has died since 2004. A review of this data identified one death (prior to 2020) associated with the ingestion of magnets. Many more children have suffered serious injuries due to the popularity and widespread availability of toys containing magnetic pieces. When swallowed, magnets can attract each other through the wall of the intestines, causing blockages, perforations, infections and other life-threatening internal injuries that often require emergency surgery. Young children can present late to a health service, and their condition can deteriorate very rapidly. As a result, magnet-containing toys continue to present a significant safety concern for children.

The Commission supports an update to the mandatory standard for toys containing magnets and referencing of the relevant clauses from voluntary Australian and New Zealand, International, European, and United States standards, as they are updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing). Without this change the mandatory standard would continue to reference outdated voluntary standards. The proposed update would ensure that future changes in global product safety development and toy safety requirements can continue to be adopted as compliance options.

The Commission notes that the ACCC can recommend to the Minister to stop an update to a voluntary standard taking effect in the mandatory standard, where necessary. It is important that this is retained in the event that a voluntary standard may reduce safety, create

unintended regulatory gaps for toy products, conflict with existing Australian policy, or not suit Australian conditions.

If you have any questions in relation to this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on XXXX XXX XXX or via email at XXXX@qfcc.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Luke Twyford

Principal Commissioner

Queensland Family and Child Commission

July 2026