



Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services

CPS Regulatory Bulletins / Newsbytes

2011 Archive – Asia Pacific

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Asia Pacific – 2011 Bulletins & Newsbytes

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China Industrial Standard for “Knitted Accessories” Now Reviewed and Approved

On December 29-30, 2010, the Knitwear Branch of the National Technical Committee on Textiles of the Standardization Administration of China (SAC/TC209) held its second session of the Sixth Committee Conference in Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, China. At this event, the China Industrial Standard for “Knitted Accessories” was reviewed and approved by over 130 experts. The Standard will be issued & implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China. Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services (BVCPS) Shanghai helped develop the draft of this standard.



Background

The Knitwear Branch of the National Technical Committee on Textiles of the Standardization Administration of China (SAC/TC209) is in charge of the management and development of China's GB/FZ Standards for knitted products, including knitted garments, knitted fabrics, raw materials used for knitting, etc. The Committee has developed over 60 GB/FZ Standards and is the main technical organization for knitted standards in China. As an active member of the committee, BVCPS Shanghai has participated in the development of many textile GB/FZ standards and has provided technical guidance to the organization since 2007.

Nowadays, an increasing amount of knitted accessories come into the Chinese market to meet consumer demand without related standards for this knitwear. In 2009, BVCPS Shanghai applied to the Knitwear Branch of China (SAC/TC209) to develop a standard to fill this need. After committee approval, BVCPS Shanghai, together with the National Knitwear Quality Supervision and Inspection Center, drafted the standard which was reviewed and revised at the National Expert Meeting in Tianjin in June 2010, and followed by a national survey.

“Knitted Accessories” is the third approved textile standard for which BVCPS Shanghai participated in developing the draft, following GB/T 22852-2009 “Knitted Swimwear Fabric” and GB/T 23330-2009 “Clothing - Requirement of Protection against Rain.”

Standard Requirements for Knitted Accessories

The standard specifies the scope, classification requirements, inner quality, appearance quality and corresponding testing methods, as listed below:

- **Scope:** This standard applies to knitted accessories made of textile fibers, including hair band, belt, tie, earmuffs, neckerchief, arm sleeves, waist band (non-sport), decorative bags and gloves, etc.
- **Classification:** Knitted accessories are divided into two grades in respect to quality, **Class 1** and **Pass**
- **Specification:** The size of main components is specified in “cm”, such as length, width, circumference, etc.

Inner Quality Requirements:			
Item		Class 1	Pass
Fiber Content (%)		Under FZ/T 01053	
Formaldehyde Content (mg/kg)		Under GB 18401	
pH value			
Presence of Odor			
Azo Dyes (mg/kg)			
Colour Fastness to Water / Grade ≥	Colour Change	3-4	3
	Colour Staining	3-4	3
Colour Fastness to Perspiration / Grade ≥	Colour Change	3-4	3
	Colour Staining	3	3
Colour Fastness to Rubbing / Grade ≥	Dry Rubbing	3-4	3

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China: Textile Product Standard GB 18401 Updated

Mandatory GB Standard GB 18401, *National General Safety Technical Code for Textile Products*, has been updated. The revised version number is GB18401- 2010. It was released on January 14, 2011 and goes into effect on August 1, 2011. Bureau Veritas (Shanghai) will be tracking the official publication of GB 18401-2010 and update clients on its availability.

The exact requirements of the revised standard are subject to the final version released by the China National Technical Committee for Textile Standardization (SAC/TC209).



Summary of Main Technical Changes

The Scope of the revised standards clearly covers “Home Textiles,” including bedding, kitchen linens, etc. Also, Appendix A (List of textile products not included in the categories of this Standard), excludes products such as shoes, suitcases or backpacks from the scope of the standard.

- Definition of “infants” has been revised. The age range changed from 24 months to 36 months, and height has changed from 80cm to 100 cm.
- The pH limit in category B has been changed from 4.0-7.5 to 4.0-8.5.
- The Substance 4-Aminoazobenzene has been added to the list of “Forbidden” azo dyes under Appendix C (now totaling 24 dyes).
- Products that are original color (undyed) or bleached, do not require colorfastness testing.

Bureau Veritas Assistance

Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services can provide a full package of GB 18401 testing services as well as label review and fiber analysis. Please contact us for details.

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2011 China New Policy on Export and Import of Apparel

China has introduced a new policy regarding the import and export of apparel and textiles that went into force as of January 1, 2011. The apparel industry needs to meet a number of requirements in order to comply with the import policy, including being in accord with Chinese Standards (such as GB 18401, GB 5296.4, etc.) and providing supporting documentation for the export policy. General requirements are summarized below.



On January 10, 2011, Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services (BVCPS) Shanghai co-organized a high-end seminar with China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau Shanghai (CIQ Shanghai). Leaders and technical experts from CIQ explained the new policy in detail. Technical subject specialists from BVCPS also covered the requirements of related GB Standards with an audience of over 100 international brands, logistic companies, retailers, and apparel importers/exporters.

Inspection and Supervision Requirements for IMPORTED Apparel:

1. The apparel importer must provide a self-declaration of conformity on China GB Standards (GB 18401, GB 5296.4, etc). The self-declaration form will need to be obtained through CIQ.
2. Imported apparel will be tested and supervised based on its performance for safety, hygienic and environmental factors (per GB 18401 and other GB Standards) and meeting the anti-fraud policy (e.g. fiber analysis per standard FZ/T 01053).
3. Before entering the market, the label on imported apparel will be inspected based on GB 5296.4.
4. For imported apparel originally Made-in-China that was previously exported, the importer will need to provide CIQ with related supporting documentation for re-entry.
5. If any imported apparel does not comply with China Standards, it will be destroyed or returned; if the products have already entered the market, the products will be recalled and the importer and retailers may be penalized.

Inspection and Supervision Requirements for EXPORTED Apparel:

1. There is a transition period for the new export policy from January 1 to April 30, 2011. During this period, exporters will need to provide a self-declaration and a testing report based on the requirements for the country of destination for the exported textile and apparel products. The self-declaration form will need to be obtained through CIQ.
2. The export policy will be updated on May 1, 2011 after the transition period.

Contact Information

Bureau Veritas has accreditation by CNAS and CMA and can provide full testing services based on GB standards.

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Unsafe Products Subject to New Permanent Bans under Australian Consumer Law

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) announced on February 8, 2011, ten permanent product bans under the new *Australian Consumer Law (ACL)*. All of these products were initially subject to 18-month interim bans under the *Trade Practice Act 1974 (TPA)* and are now permanently banned in all States and Territories in Australia under the new law.



Background

Prior to January 2011, several notices declaring goods to be unsafe were made under the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, that has now been amended and renamed the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*. The new Australian Consumer Law is subject to that Act, and under its provision, the Commonwealth Minister can make the existing interim bans on consumer goods permanent.

Products Subject to New Permanent Bans

Product	Notice No.	Description
Children's products containing more than 1% DEHP	Consumer Protection Notice No.11 of 2011	Toys, childcare articles and eating vessels intended for use by children up to an including 36 months of age that contain more than 1% DEHP
Combustible candle holders	Consumer Protection Notice No.2 of 2011	Candle holders that ignite and continue to flame for a period of five seconds or more
Inflatable toys, novelties and furniture containing beads	Consumer Protection Notice No.3 of 2011	Inflatable toys, novelties and furniture which may be inflated by the mouth and contain small beads or pellets that may be inhaled during inflation or deflation
Miniature motorbikes (monkey bikes) with unsafe design features	Consumer Protection Notice No.4 of 2011	Miniature motor bikes that are not certified under the Road Vehicle Certification System unless they comply with specific safety requirements
Novelty cigarettes	Consumer Protection Notice No.5 of 2011	Imitation cigarettes that contain a fine powder, that allow users to blow into, or inhale from, to produce a cloud of fine dust
Pools and spas with unsafe design	Consumer Protection Notice No.6 of 2011	'Potty skimmers' designed for installation in domestic swimming pools or spas
Sky lanterns	Consumer Protection Notice No.7 of 2011	Miniature, unmanned hot air balloon that relies on an open flame as a heat source to heat the air inside the lantern with intent of causing it to lift into the atmosphere
Toy-like novelty cigarette lighters	Consumer Protection Notice No.8 of 2011	Toy-like novelty cigarette lighters that are likely to be appealing to children under five years of age by appearing to be a toy
Undeclared cutters or knives in children's art and craft sets	Consumer Protection Notice No.9 of 2011	Art and craft sets intended for use by children that contain an undeclared knife or cutter with a metal blade
Yo-Yo Water Balls	Consumer Protection Notice No.10 of 2011	Toys intended to be thrown and returned to the hand, consisting of an elastic cord extendable to at least 500mm in length

Additional Resources

- Media Releases:
<http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/985086>
- Full List of Banned Products:
<http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/970715#toc1>

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Taiwan Mandatory Inspection with Standard CNS 15290 for Textile and Apparel Products

The Taiwanese Bureau of Standards, Metrology & Inspection (BSMI) has Introduced a mandatory inspection for textile and apparel products that are imported into, manufactured in, or sold in Taiwan. The apparel industry needs to meet a number of requirements to comply with the mandatory inspection, including being in accord with CNS 15290 *Safety of Textiles (General Requirements)* and placing the commodity inspection marks on the products, hangtags or other packaging materials.



Background

The processing of textile products usually involves adding various kinds of dyes, auxiliaries and finishing agents that can contain harmful chemicals. When small amounts of such chemicals accumulate to a certain threshold in textiles, they may cause harmful effects to the skin and even human health. As these hazardous substances are considered to be carcinogenic or toxic to humans, and in response to public request, the BSMI plans to regulate the safety of textile products, particularly those with direct contact to the skin. The implementation dates for various products follow.

Date of Implementation

Products	Effective Date
For babies' garments and clothing accessories under 24 months of age or height less than 86cm	July 1, 2011
Textile products (towels, sweaters, garments, swimwear, underwear, hosiery and bedding)	January 1, 2012

Commodity Inspection Marks

Upon passing the mandatory inspections, a commodity inspection mark will be required. The Commodity inspection marks are either printed by BSMI, or can be printed by the manufacturer in accordance with regulations and with prior approval from BSMI. These marks can be placed on the products, hangtags or other packaging materials. Retailers are prohibited from selling textile products without a commodity inspection mark.

Manufacturers or importers may purchase the mark if the applicant's products have passed three consecutive inspections within one year. The commodity inspection mark printed by BSMI contains a unique identification number as shown in the following Figure 1. Manufacturers and importers may wish to print their own commodity inspection marks. The label should appear like those shown in Figure 2.

Text continued on following page....

Commodity Inspection Marks



Figure 1: Commodity inspection mark printed by BSMI



QXXXXX

批號:YYYYYY



MXXXXX

批號:YYYYYY

Figure 2: Commodity inspection mark printed by manufacturers or importers

Note: M – Means each batch of product is inspected.
Q – Means the product is inspected during manufacturing.

Additional Information

- Bureau Veritas Bulletin 10B-143: Taiwan Proposes Mandatory Inspection with Standard CNS 15290 for Babies' Garment and Clothing Accessories
http://www.bureauveritas.com/wps/wcm/connect/bv_com/group/home/about-us/our-business/our-business-consumer-products/news+and+events/regulatory+bulletins/taiwan_mandatory_inspection_babiesgarments
- Proposal for Legal Inspection of Babies' Garments and Clothing Accessories
<http://www.bsmi.gov.tw/wSite/public/Data/f1294991663897.doc>
- Proposal for Legal Inspection of Textile Products (Towels, Sweaters, Garments, Swimwear, Underwear, Hosiery and Bedding)
<http://www.bsmi.gov.tw/wSite/public/Data/f1299737328545.doc>
- The Introduction of Textile Product Inspection Regime by BSMI (in Chinese)
<http://www.bsmi.gov.tw/wSite/public/Data/f1299737192652.ppt>

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Korea Certification (KC) Mark for Textile Goods Updates

The Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) has revised the *Self-Regulatory Safety Confirmation* and the *Safety Quality Labeling for Textile Products*. The new requirements KATS No. 2010-677 (Self-Regulatory Safety Confirmation) and KATS No. 2010-678 (Safety Quality Labeling) go into effect on December 27, 2011.



Highlight of the Self-Regulatory Safety Confirmation Annex 4 Update (KATS No. 2010-677)

- The small parts requirement is newly added for baby textile products. If a component or part detaches from the baby textile product after the attachment test / domestic washing and drying test, it is classified as small parts and not permitted.

Restricted Substances	Baby Textile Product (≤ 36 months)
pH	4.0 - 7.5
Formaldehyde (mg/kg)	≤ 20
Azo Dyes (mg/kg)	Individually ≤ 30
Phthalates (%) (DNOP, DEHP, BBP, DBP, DINP & DIDP)	≤ 0.1
Organotin - TBT (mg/kg)	≤ 0.5
Organotin - DBT (mg/kg)	≤ 1.0
Dimethyl Fumarates (mg/kg)	≤ 0.1
Flame Retardants	Banned
Total lead (mg/kg)	≤ 90 (Metal ≤ 300)
Cord & Drawstrings	Comply
Allergic Disperse Dyes	Banned
* Small Parts	No small part after attachment test / domestic washing and drying test

* Effective on December 27, 2011

Highlight of the Safety Quality Labeling Annex 1 Update (KATS No. 2010-678)

- Any infant or children's shoes made of soft or blown synthetic resin should have a caution label.
- Small parts label is mandatory for baby and children's textile products.

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Australia Issues Guidelines: Suggested Practice for Drawstrings on Children's Clothing

In order to reduce the risk drawstrings pose to children, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has developed these voluntary guidelines for the Australian market based on US and European safety standards, ASTM F1816-97 and EN 14682:2007.

No printed copy of the publication has been released but an electronic version is available at the ACCC Product Safety Australia site listed below.



Suggested Practice for Children's Clothing

As a general guide, the ACCC suggests that manufacturers and retailers supplying children's clothing carefully assess the safety of all drawstrings, decorative cords, shoulder straps and functional cords protruding from the back of all children's clothing. The ACCC also suggests alternatives such as removable sashes and belts as safer options. It is recommended that suppliers undertake a risk assessment incorporating the safety features detailed below. These safety features are based on the following voluntary US and European standards:

- ASTM F 1816-97 *Standard Safety Specification for Drawstrings on Children's Upper Outerwear*
- EN 14682:2007 *Safety of Children's Clothing - Cords and Drawstrings on Children's Clothing – Specifications.*

Hood and Neck

Young children from birth to seven years - Garments should not have drawstrings, functional cords or decorative cords. Decorative items such as bows should not have any free ends longer than **75 mm** or loops greater than **75 mm**.

Older children and young persons aged seven to fourteen years – Garments, including jackets and windcheaters, should not have drawstrings with any free ends. It is preferred that these garments use alternative closures such as, but not limited to, snaps, buttons or Velcro, rather than drawstrings. Functional and decorative cords should not measure more than **75 mm** in length at either end.

Waist/Lower-Hem

The end of any waist or lower-hem drawstrings should measure no more than **75 mm** from where the string extends out of the garment to its end, when the garment is expanded to its fullest width. If garments are supplied with drawstrings the ACCC also suggests that:

- the drawstring be sewn to the garment at its midpoint so the string can not be pulled to one side and lengthened enough to catch on something;
- toggles or knots at the ends of all drawstrings are eliminated where possible as these can create a 'hook' or stopper that gets caught in small spaces. Other alternatives are encouraged in these cases;
- lower/ankle hem drawstrings should be finished on the inside of the garment.

More Information

Text of the Guideline: <http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/987273>

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Newsbytes

NEWSBYTE: China Bans Bisphenol A in Infant Feeding Bottles

The Ministry of Health, together with five other China ministries, issued a joint notice on May 30, 2011 announcing that the production of infant feeding bottles made of polycarbonate or containing bisphenol A (BPA) is banned in China starting June 1, 2011. From September 1, 2011, the import into China or sale in the China market of polycarbonate infant feeding bottles or infant feeding bottles containing bisphenol A will also be prohibited. For other food contact materials and articles, the specific migration limit of bisphenol A must comply with the limit set in the related national safety standard.

Additional Information

Full text of the Notice (in Chinese):

<http://www.moh.gov.cn/publicfiles/business/htmlfiles/mohwsjdj/s7891/201105/51866.htm>

Bureau Veritas Assistance

If you have any questions, please contact your customer service representative.

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11NB-031, June 2011

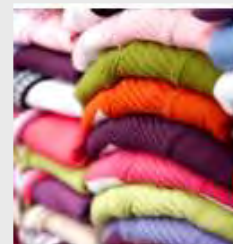


China: Implementation of the Textile Product Standard GB 18401-2010 Has Been Postponed

The China National Technical Committee for Textile Standardization (SAC/TC209) has announced that the implementation of mandatory Standard GB 18401-2010, *National General Safety Technical Code for Textile Products*, has been postponed until August 1, 2012.

Standard GB 18401-2010 was released on January 14, 2011 and was originally required to become effective on August 1, 2011. The reason for the postponement is that the authority would like to provide one additional year as a transition period for the manufacturers and retailers due to the complexity of the standard changes.

The exact effective date of the standard is subject to the final decision of the China National Technical Committee for Textile Standardization (SAC/TC209). During the transition period, which is from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012, both versions, GB 18401-2003 or GB 18401-2010, will be allowed to apply to products under the scope.



Summary of Key Technical Changes Between GB 18401-2010 and GB 18401-2003

Standard GB 18401-2010 was revised based on the previous standard GB 18401-2003. The scope of the revised standard clearly covers "Home Textiles," including bedding, kitchen linens, etc. Also, Appendix A (List of textile products not included in the categories of this Standard), excludes products such as shoes, suitcases or backpacks from the scope of the standard.

The main technical changes are listed as below,

- Definition of "infants" has been revised. The age range changed from 24 months to 36 months, and height has changed from 80cm to 100 cm.
- The pH limit in category B has been changed from 4.0-7.5 to 4.0-8.5.
- The Substance 4-Aminoazobenzene has been added to the list of "Forbidden" azo dyes under Appendix C (now totaling 24 dyes).
- Products that are original color (undyed) or bleached do not require colorfastness testing.

How Can Bureau Veritas Help?

Bureau Veritas can provide a full package of GB 18401 testing services as well as label review and fiber analysis. If you have any questions regarding these standards or other softlines concerns, please contact your local customer service representative or email:

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Phthalate Requirement Extended to All Plasticized Materials under Japan Toy Safety Standard

On August 23, 2011, the Japan Toy Association issued a notice announcing that the phthalate requirement will be revised in *Japan Toy Safety Standard ST-2002 Part 3* by extending the scope to include all plasticized material for six phthalates. This revision is effective immediately.



Background

The new phthalate requirement for toys under the *Japan Food Sanitation Law* (JFSL) which extends the scope to all plasticized material for six phthalates will be effective on September 6, 2011. The Japan Toy Association would therefore like to align the requirement and test method for phthalates in the Japan Toy Safety Standard (JTSS) to be in accord with the *Japan Food Sanitation Law*.

Overview of Requirement

	Japan Toy Safety Standard (10th edition)	Japan Toy Safety Standard (10th edition - Revised August 23, 2011)	Japan Food Sanitation Law (Effective - September 6, 2011)
Requirement	Synthetic resin mainly composed of PVC used in designated toy shall not contain over 0.1% DEHP, DBP, or BBP	Plasticized material used in designated toy shall not contain over 0.1% DEHP, DBP, or BBP	Plasticized material used in designated toy shall not contain over 0.1% DEHP, DBP, or BBP
	Synthetic resin mainly composed of PVC used in parts of designated toy that are intended to come in contact with mouth (excluding pacifiers and teething rings) shall not contain over 0.1% DINP, DIDP, or DnOP	Designated toy that are intended to come in contact with mouth (excluding pacifiers and teething rings): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts made from plasticized material that intended to come in contact with mouth shall not contain over 0.1% DINP, DIDP, or DnOP PVC parts that are not intended to come in contact with mouth shall not use DINP as raw material 	Designated toy that are intended to come in contact with infant's mouth (excluding pacifiers and teething rings): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts made from plasticized material that intended to come in contact with infant's mouth shall not contain over 0.1% DINP, DIDP, or DnOP PVC parts that are not intended to come in contact with infant's mouth shall not use DINP as raw material
	Synthetic resin mainly composed of PVC used in non-designated toys intend for children under six years shall follow DEHP and DINP requirement only		-
	Pacifiers and teething rings shall not use synthetic resin containing PVC as raw material		-
Test Method	Test method for PVC only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test method is modified for all plasticized materials CPSC-CH-C1001-09.3 	

Note: - Designated toys: Refer to Article 78(1) of the enforcement regulations of the *Food Sanitation Law*
- High risk plasticized material: polyvinyl chloride, polyurethane and rubber

Additional Information

Notice issued by Japan Toy Association: http://www.toys.or.jp/st/pdf/2011/st_kijyun3bu_kaitei_20110823.pdf

Contact Information

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Newsbytes

NEWSBYTE: Taiwan: Implementation of Mandatory Inspection for Textile Products is Postponed

On November 15, 2011, the Taiwanese Bureau of Standards, Metrology & Inspection (BSMI) announced that the implementation of mandatory inspection for textile products (towels, sweaters, garments, swimwear, underwear, hosiery and bedding) has been postponed until October 1, 2012.

Requirements for the mandatory inspection of textile products were released on June 20, 2011 and originally scheduled to become effective on January 1, 2012, but have been postponed until October 1, 2012. The Taiwanese Bureau of Standards, Metrology & Inspection (BSMI) decided to postpone the implementation date, because many companies involved, including manufacturers, importers and retailers, were not yet ready to comply with the new regulation.

If companies would like to use the “commodity inspection mark” on their products during this transition period, the products must comply with the requirements stated in the new regulation.

Additional Information

To view BSMI announcement (in Chinese):

<http://www.bsmi.gov.tw/wSite/public/Data/f1321422947227.pdf>

Bureau Veritas Assistance

If you have any questions, please contact your customer service representative or email our Taiwan office at: general@tw.bureauveritas.com

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