

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Implementing and Enforcing Recalls and Bans

This fact sheet has been produced to provide consumers and traders with a better understanding of the implementation and enforcement of recalls and bans.

RECALLED PRODUCTS

Unsafe consumer goods are removed from the marketplace in the best interests of both consumers and suppliers. Removal of unsafe goods is carried out through recall action either on a voluntary basis by the supplier (once they become aware of a fault in their product) or by an order from the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Guidelines on conducting recalls and a list of products recalled are available at <http://www.recalls.gov.au>.

VOLUNTARY RECALLS

It is a requirement under section 36(3) of the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act* that a supplier who voluntarily takes action to recall goods shall notify the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs in writing:

Commissioner of Consumer Affairs
GPO Box 1722
DARWIN NT 0801

Telephone: (08) 8999 1999

Facsimile: (08) 8935 7738

BANNED/RESTRICTED PRODUCTS

Where goods are found to be dangerous to health or a possible source of danger to health, the Minister for Consumer Affairs may prohibit or restrict the supply and sale of those goods in the Northern Territory.

The following goods are banned (or restricted) under the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act 1990* and the bans are enforced by Consumer Affairs NT.

- Action Army Gun Set
- Baby Bomba
- Barnett Strike Slingshot
- Barnett Trident Crossbow
- Citronella Candles (Two in one BBQ candle mozzie and insect repellent)
- Crocodile / Shark Oven Mitts (Restriction)
- Exercise or Fitness Equipment (Gut Buster, Tummy Trimmer)
- Expanding Bath Toys
- Flashing Pacifier
- Glazed Ceramic Dinnerware with excessive lead levels
- Grow-A-Saurus Expanding Toy
- Happy Baby Nappy Clips
- Hydro Pneumatic Toy Rockets
- Mini Fruit Jelly Cups
- Skimmer Boxes with no protective device fitted to the filter inlet
- Sparkle Bracelet
- Special Police Gun Set
- Sure Shot Catapult
- The Adventurer Dart Gun
- Toy Cellular Phones which fail sound emission tests
- Trafalgar Medicine Glass
- Tru Shot Slingshot (Restricted)
- No Holes Tongue Stud

For more detailed information on each of the banned products visit our web site consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au or phone 1800 019 319 and the list will be posted out to you.

The following goods are banned under the *Trade Practices Act 1974* and the bans are enforced by the ACCC.

- **Candles with lead wicks (18 month interim ban from 28 March 2001):** Burning of lead in confined spaces may pose a health hazard.
- **'Diveman' underwater breathing apparatus:** Relied on kicking action of the diver to ensure air supply - not effective or reliable.
- **Gas masks which contain asbestos:** WWII surplus masks - possible carcinogen.
- **Glucomannan in tablet form:** Diet aid designed to swell in stomach, but can cause choking if stuck in throat; acceptable in other forms such as powder or capsules.

- **'Quickie' line release system:** A water skiing device intended to release a ski rope if problems arose, but was not reliable.
- **Seat belt accessories, including 'Klunk Klip', 'Comfix', 'Auto Comfort':** Devices designed to create some slack in belts, but compromised their performance.
- **Sun visors including 'Autotrend Sun Filter' and similar internal visors:** Goods contain brittle plastic and metal parts which may cause injury to a person in the event of an accident.
- **Tinted headlight covers:** Headlight covers for motor vehicles that allow less than 85 percent luminous transmittance.
- **Tobacco products (smokeless):** Chewing tobacco and snuff - known to cause cancer of the mouth.
- **Victim toys:** A series of toys and figurines depicting violence to human and other victims - may cause psychological harm

There is also a Product Recalls Australia website at www.recalls.gov.au for further advice and information.

For further information contact Consumer Affairs

Old Admiralty Towers, 68 The Esplanade, GPO Box 1722, Darwin NT 0801
Ph: 08 8999 1999 - Fax: 08 8935 7727

or

Level 1, Belvedere House, Parsons Street, PO Box 1745 Alice Springs NT 0871
Telephone: 08 8951 8606 Fax: 08 8951 5442

or phone 1800 019 319

Email: consumer@nt.gov.au

Web site: consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au

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