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Whilst these regulations strictly only apply to toys and articles intended to be sucked or chewed by children, they are often referred to in the context of other health protection issues.

Importantly, the regulations, and therefore the standard, apply to the toy or article as placed on the market and **NOT** the coating supplied by ourselves.

Where it is possible to remove a sample of the coating from the toy this is required to be analysed. Otherwise, thin or non-detachable films are tested in combination with the substrates, to which they are applied.

As we are not responsible for the handling of the paint or ink outside our own operations, HMG are not in a position to make statements on the conformance of the coating or ink on the toy or article in question, and the compliance of the product. We strongly recommend that a trial is carried out, using all intended production materials and that the resultant toy or article is tested to establish its compliance with the regulations. In carrying out such trials, all precautions should be taken to avoid the risk of introducing contaminants, which would result in rejection of the product.

HMG can supply a wide range of coating systems in different shades and sheens, which from previous history we would expect to comply with the heavy metal extraction requirements of the standard EN71-3 1995. This is the only current or draft part of the standard relevant to coatings. The most widely used systems are Industrial Cellulose. Pre Cat Lacquer, Acid Cat Lacquer, C71 Speedline and LMP Water Based Acrylic. It is worth stating that products classed as 'lead-free' or 'no added lead' may not conform to the Toy Regulations. Both phrases indicate that no lead or heavy metal containing products have been added to the coating system during manufacture. However, lead or heavy metal impurities could be present in the raw materials used, hence the reason for independent certification.

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Should you wish for the coating to be tested against BS EN 71-3, prior to delivery, we recommend a NAMAS-accredited laboratory carry out this analysis. If you wish us to organise this testing on your behalf, the cost of testing each batch of coating will be passed on to you. The completion of the analytical testing takes some time and orders for coatings should be placed, allowing sufficient time for the work to be carried out. We will be pleased to advise test times and cost on enquiry.

The Toys (Safety) Regulations 1995, SI 1995:204, download from www.hmso.gov.uk/