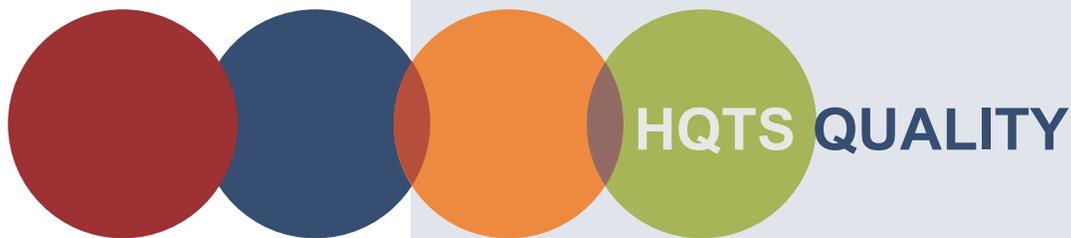


December 2017

Our monthly newsletter filled with the latest news about the quality assurance industry. Keep updated!



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News Updates

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Since 2009, all toys in the United States must meet the safety requirements of F963, per the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), which makes it a mandatory federal standard. There have been four revisions to ASTM F963: the 2008, 2011, 2016 and 2017 versions of ASTM F963 till now. F963 includes requirements and test methods to prevent potential injuries such as choking, sharp edges, toxins, pinching, and other potential hazards.

2017 Revision:

On August 24, 2017, ASTM International published revised toy safety standard F963-17. There was a substantive revision to the requirements for projectile toys, clarifying that for the stored energy projectiles the Kinetic energy density (KED) requirement only applies to the projectiles that have kinetic energy greater than 0.08J. It also clarifies in the acoustics requirements that the requirements for floor and tabletop toys do not apply to push/pull toys.

On December 4, 2017, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published a DFR in the Federal Register to mandate ASTM F963-2017 as a consumer safety standard for toys, with one exception, and updates the existing notice of requirements (NOR) for acceptance of accreditation of third party conformity assessment bodies for testing to ASTM F963.

The new language in sound-producing toys test method section functionally exempts pull/push toys from the A-weighted maximum sound pressure level (LAFmax) requirements and will decrease safety by allowing toys that produce sound levels that exceed noise exposure limits by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Apart from this new language, the Commission accepts all changes in ASTM F963-2017 as the mandatory standard.

Keep informed about technical updates for international manufacturers & importers of consumer products



3 Substances Added to the California Proposition 65 List

On Dec. 15, 2017, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of California added Chlorpyrifos and n-Hexane as chemicals known to cause reproductive toxicity to Proposition 65 list.

On Dec. 29, 2017, OEHHA added vinylidene chloride (1,1-dichloroethylene) as the chemical known to cause cancer to Proposition 65 list. There have been 6 updates with 12 newly regulated substances in the whole year of 2017.

Detailed information of 3 newly added substances is shown as below:

Chemical	CAS No.	Toxicological Endpoints	Effective date
Chlorpyrifos	2921-88-2	Developmental Toxicity	Dec. 15, 2017
n-Hexane	110-54-3	Male Reproductive Toxicity	Dec. 15, 2017
Vinylidene chloride (1,1-dichloroethylene)	75-35-4	Cancer	Dec. 29, 2017

HQTS provides quality control inspections, factory audits, supplier evaluations, consumer product testing, production control and management, and quality control consulting throughout greater Asia.

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ECHA to Add Seven New Substances to SVHC list



On Dec. 20, 2017, the Member State Committee (MSC) supported the German proposal to additionally identify bisphenol A (BPA) as a substance of very high concern (SVHC) because of its endocrine disrupting properties which cause probable serious effects to the environment. Bisphenol A is already listed in the Candidate List due to its toxic for reproduction properties and due to its endocrine disrupting properties which cause probable serious effects to human health. ECHA will update the current entry for BPA accordingly and add seven additional substances to the Candidate List by mid-January.

The following is detailed information of the seven substances:

Substance	EC No.	CAS No.	Character
Dechlorane plus (including any of its individual anti- and syn-isomers or any combination thereof)	-	13560-89-9; 135821-74-8; 135821-03-3	vPvB
Benz[a]anthracene	200-280-6	56-55-3	Carcinogenic PBT vPvB
Cadmium nitrate	233-710-6	10325-94-7	Carcinogenic Toxic
Cadmium carbonate	208-168-9	513-78-0	Carcinogenic Toxic
Cadmium hydroxide	244-168-5	21041-95-2	Carcinogenic Toxic
Chrysene	205-923-4	218-01-9	Carcinogenic PBT vPvB
Reaction products of 1,3,4-thiadiazolidine-2,5-dithione, formaldehyde and 4-heptylphenol, branched and linear (RP-HP) [with ≥0.1% w/w 4-heptylphenol, branched and linear]	-	-	endocrine disruption



CPSC Approves New Federal Safety Standard for Children's Folding Chairs and Stools



On December 8, 2017, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has approved a new federal standard intended to improve the safety of children's folding chairs and stools. The effective date for the new mandatory children's folding chairs and stools standard is six months after the final rule is published in the Federal Register.

The new federal safety standard incorporates the most recent voluntary standard developed by ASTM International (ASTM F2613-17a, Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Children's Chairs and Stools), but limits the scope of the CPSC standard to children's folding chairs and stools. The mandatory standard contains several requirements for children's folding chairs and stools, including:

- latching and locking mechanism or adequate hinge-line clearance requirements,
- rearwards and sideways stability testing, and
- warning labels

Between January 2003 and August 2017, CPSC received a total of 153 reports of incidents, including 105 injuries, related to children's folding chairs and stools.

The most frequent injuries associated with children's folding chairs and stools include pinching, finger injuries and tip-overs due to instability.



How can HQTS-QAI help?

HQTS-QAI is a professional testing lab dedicated to providing a wide variety of testing services to ensure product quality and regulatory compliance, including but not limited to:

- Chemicals
- Package Testing
- Toy Safety
- Footwear
- Softgoods
- Hardgoods
- Food Contact Materials

Saudi Arabia Announces New Conformity Assessment Rules under SALEEM-SABER



The Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) has recently announced changes to the Conformity Assessment rules for exports to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Starting from January 2018, SASO will gradually introduce a new Saudi Product Safety Program known as SALEEM, as well as a new global online certification system called SABER.

The SABER system will be effective from the 1st February 2018 with a trial period allowing use of the system on a voluntary basis. Should the trial be successful, the new system will become mandatory as of the 1st July 2018.

The new SALEEM-SABER safety program aims to ensure that goods and products imported into Saudi Arabia are of an excellent quality and meet the highest level of safety standards to control the high consumption of power or water, environmental pollution, malfunction, poor performance, and may promote non-appropriate cultural content.

At this point in time it is suggested there will be a two-part process, Product Registration and Shipment CoC.

It is intended that SABER will become the central online repository of all mandatory SALEEM data, which includes technical data / test reports verifying the safety aspect of the items being shipped as well as shipping documents such as sales invoices, bill of lading, and country of origin certificates.

Whilst current SASO Certificates (CoCs) will continue to be accepted until further notice, it is advised by HQTs that manufacturers, exporters, importers and freight forwarders should now start the process of registering their products within the SABER system.





HQTS Recognized as the Council Member of Guangdong E-Commerce Association

In Dec. 2017, HQTS Group was recognized as the council member of the third board of directors of Guangdong E-commerce Association. From Jan. 2017 until now, HQTS has been the council member of the Guangdong E-commerce Association all the time, which is both the recognition of the e-commerce inspection and testing of HQTS by industrial association, and the important demonstration of the capability of HQTS Group.

HQTS was awarded the honorary title of “Council Member” of Guangdong E-commerce Association

Guangdong E-commerce Association is an industrial social group organization established by Guangdong Information Center, Guangdong Electronic Post Office and Guangdong E-commerce Certification Authority, which is aimed to accelerate the informatization process, and provide the services of information consultation, technical exchange, industrial standards and quality supervision for the standardization and industrialization of e-commerce of Guangdong Province. The Association sets strict requirements for auditing the qualification, strength and influence of its members, and only the companies with great influence within the industry can be the member of the Association.

As the model enterprise of quality inspection industry, its lab HQTS-QAI is the designated lab of Juhuasuan (under Alibaba Group), and is also one of the earliest labs that provides quality inspection reports for the e-commerce platforms including Tmall, JD and many other online shops. It has helps more than ten thousands of enterprises to enter the e-commerce platforms successfully through product testing.

HQTS Group owns more than 20 years' experience of quality inspection. It is highly praised by the review committee of Guangdong E-commerce Association, and has been recognized as the council member of the Association for two years successively. HQTS Group will continue to explore the businesses to fully meet the quality inspection demands of all kinds of enterprises and e-commerce platforms, so as to realize the all-win situation of industry, enterprises and consumers.

STAY TUNED!

