

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Tips for Buyers Reviewing Consumer Product Safety Test Reports

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Buyers Training
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This presentation was prepared by CPSC staff. It has not been reviewed or approved by the Commission and may not reflect its views.

Tips for Buyers

Knowing the requirements can help discussions with manufacturers and vendors you work with for consumer product safety testing.

Tips for Buyers

- Understanding the requirements for consumer products will help focus the discussion with the manufacture and ensure that the vendor specifies that the correct testing has been conducted.
- Knowing what to ask can help focus on the right aspects, save you time and money, and build a better working relationship.

What do I need to know about test reports?

KEY QUESTIONS

CPSC Acceptance

- Is the laboratory an accredited CPSC-accepted 3rd party laboratory?
- Is the laboratory an accredited CPSC-accepted laboratory for the specific tests you need performed?



Required Testing

- Know what children's product safety rules apply to the products that must be tested.
 - Interactive CPSC Regulatory Robot:
<https://business.cpsc.gov/robot/>
 - For a full list of CPSC children's product safety rules:
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Business--Manufacturing/Testing-Certification/Lab-Accreditation/Rules-Requiring-Third-Party-Testing/>
 - Testing laboratories can sometimes help with questions, or you can contact CPSC staff.



Safer Products Start Here!

Testing

- Buyers should be mindful that:
 - There is testing to the requirements and periodic testing if the product is in continuous production.
 - Understand how the product is being manufactured, what requirements are applicable, and how the product was tested

Testing

- The manufacturer should have a sampling plan based on the number of units in production.
- You can plan to have **periodic testing** done.
- You can plan to conduct testing for purposes of **issuing a certificate**.
- You can plan to test when you are making a **material change** to a product.

Data Security

- Ensure that reports cannot be copied, edited, or changed in any manner by use of digital or written signatures, watermarks or similar methods.



Name: **JOHN SMITH**

Position: **KING OF THE WORLD**

Sample Documentation

A picture is worth a thousand words.

Are Products Identified?

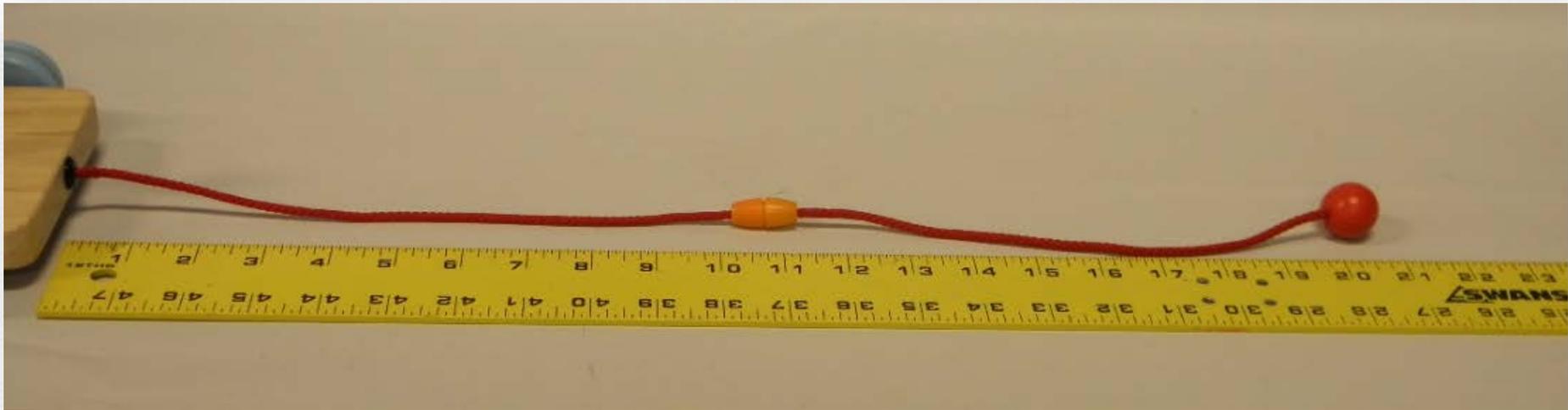
Are there color photographs, with the items in close proximity to the camera lens, so that the products tested are easy to identify?

Align the identities with the test reports.



Are the Tested Components Identified?

Use a ruler or other visual indicator to show the measurement reading of a product feature that is subject to CPSC requirements.

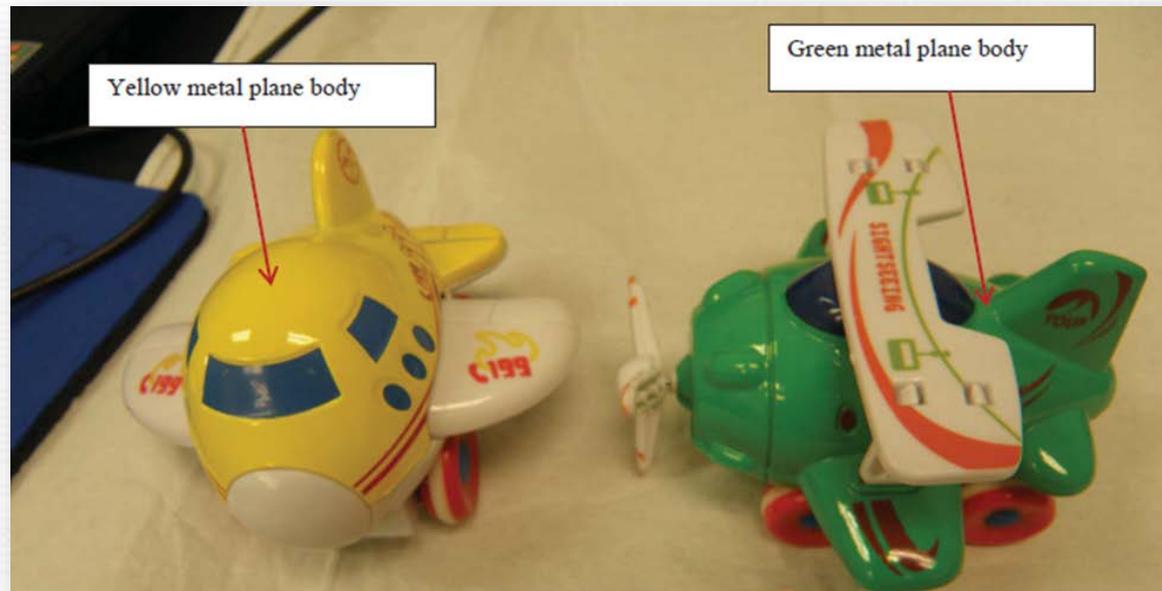


Are the Tested Components Identified?

Tested areas or components should be highlighted.

- For example, a surface coating or paint

When reviewing the testing for lead in a toy, identify all accessible components of the toy that were tested.



Are the Test Requirements Met?

Check for:

- The number of samples/specimens
- The reference to the test performed
- The stated pass/fail criteria for U.S. test performed. Tests performed to the EU criteria are not equivalent.

Are Numerical Results Included?

Look for useful details regarding pass/fail (P/F) criteria when a numerical value is provided by the test.

Example: The maximum measurement permitted for the component being tested is 2.0 units. The component measures at 2.5 units. The test value obtained (2.5) should be reported along with the “F.”

Appearance

- Review the test report for anomalies, such as:
 - Handwritten changes
 - Photocopied appearance
 - Misspellings
 - Mismatched test names or references
 - Changes in font type and background color
 - Test values that are not aligned with the other data on the page or in a line

Follow up with the laboratory and CPSC if you suspect that test reports are fraudulent.

For questions about third party testing requirements, contact CPSC staff, and review: [https://cpsc.gov/Business--
Manufacturing/Testing-Certification](https://cpsc.gov/Business--Manufacturing/Testing-Certification)