

WARNING(s)

This booklet gives you examples of toys that are sold throughout Europe, and not labelled with sufficient or correct information for consumers.

You might be shocked.

Contact: Laura Degallaix (BEUC) – environment@beuc.eu
Tania Vandenberghe (ANEC) – Tania.Vandenberghe@anec.eu
Ref.: X/062/2008 – ANEC-CHILD-2008-G-063

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation
36 avenue de Tervueren, 1040 Bruxelles - +32 2 743 15 90
www.beuc.eu

ANEC - European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation, AISBL
Av. de Tervueren 32, box 27 – B-1040 Brussels, Belgium - +32-2-743 24 70
www.anec.eu

A large, thick red triangle with a white interior, serving as a warning symbol. Inside the triangle, the word "WARNING(s)" is written in bold black capital letters.

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Standardisation Av. de Tervueren 32, box 27 – 1040 Brussels - +32 2 743 24 70
www.anec.eu



Toys: Find (and understand) the warnings!

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation, ANEC, the European Consumer Voice in Standardisation, and their members across Europe, are worried about the increasing use of warnings and labels as substitutes for requiring a manufacturer to put safe products on the market.

In our view, warnings and labels should be only complementary to strict safety measures: manufacturers should be obliged to ensure that a toy does not present any avoidable risks to children.

There are however situations where a warning would be needed. For example, a toy which is safe for a child of ten years might not be safe for a child younger than three years. In this case it should be labelled with a warning.

Warnings should catch the buyer's attention, and be present on both the toy itself and the packaging whenever possible. They must always be preceded by the word "Warning!".

Warnings should always provide information on both the inherent hazard of the toy and the risks related to its use as well as the ways of avoiding them. For instance, a warning must inform consumers about the fact that the toy contains small parts and that it may pose a risk of choking. Information about how to use the toy safely is also necessary (*"Not suitable for children under 3", "Do not put in the mouth"*).

In addition, some warnings (*"Not suitable for children under three", "Not for children with a body weight of more than 20kg,"*) should be visible before purchase in order to allow consumers to assess whether the toy is safe for the child in question. Other warnings which consumers need to be aware of during the whole life of a toy (*"Do not use in deep water", "Only for domestic use"*) need to be permanently displayed on the toy.

In the following pages, you will find examples of warnings that can be found on toys or their packaging currently sold on the European market. Some of the warnings are barely visible, difficult to read and/or difficult to understand.

IMCO vote on 6 November

The revision of the Toy Safety Directive presents
a unique opportunity to clarify the issue of warnings.
This can be achieved through supporting a series of amendments:

Warnings should be clear, accurate, in a language that consumers understand and prominently (conspicuously) displayed:

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendments 13, 86, 88, 146, 182, 183, 184, 189 and 201.**
- ⇒ **Reject IMCO amendment 87.**

Warnings should be preceded by the word "Warning!" in order to catch the buyer's attention:

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendments 364, 365 and 366.**

Warnings which are necessary for a safe choice of toys should be visible before purchase, on the toy packaging, at the point of sale and on web pages:

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendments 182, 186, 188, 190, 191 and 194.**

Warnings that are necessary for a safe use of the toy, and need to be remembered during the whole life of a toy should be permanently marked on it:

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendments 182, 192, 193, 195 and 196.**

Warnings should provide consumers with information on both the inherent hazard of the toy and the risks related to its use:

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendment 181.**

Warnings should be self-explanatory in order to ensure that consumers understand them and take the necessary protective measures:

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendment 276, 284, 369, 371, 372 and 373.**
- ⇒ **Reject IMCO amendment 370.**

A warning stating that the toy is not suitable for a particular age group shall not be applied on a toy which is clearly intended for children of that age group. Currently, manufacturers often put such warnings on toys in order to avoid having to comply with the stricter requirements foreseen for such toys:

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendment 85, 146, 367 and 368.**

The presentation of warnings on toys should be improved and harmonized

- ⇒ **Support IMCO amendment 185, 187 and 197.**

Examples of bad warnings¹

¹ The examples in this book are only shown in order to illustrate our demands on warnings in the context of the revision of the Toys Directive. The inclusion of these examples does not automatically imply that the toys do not comply with the legislation, nor that they pose risks for children.

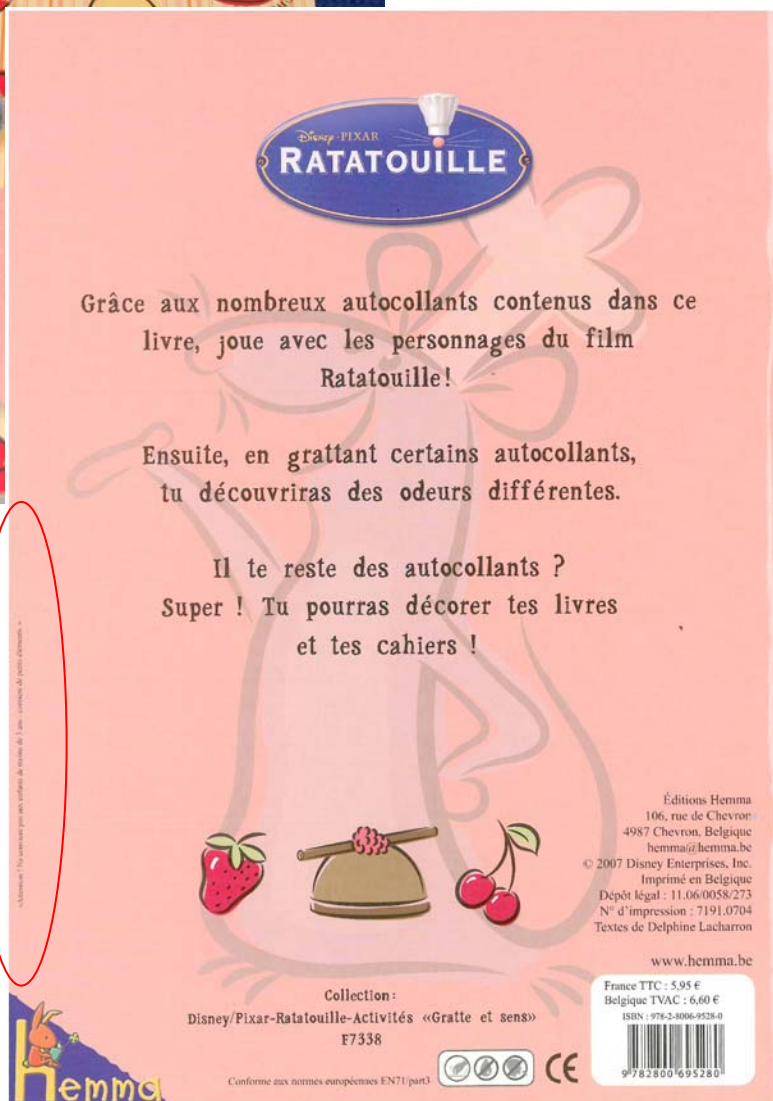
These warnings are not prominently displayed. In addition, the use instructions on the top right of the packaging are not explicit.



WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD -
Small parts. Not for Children
under 3 Years.

NO. 2023/1
MADE IN CHINA

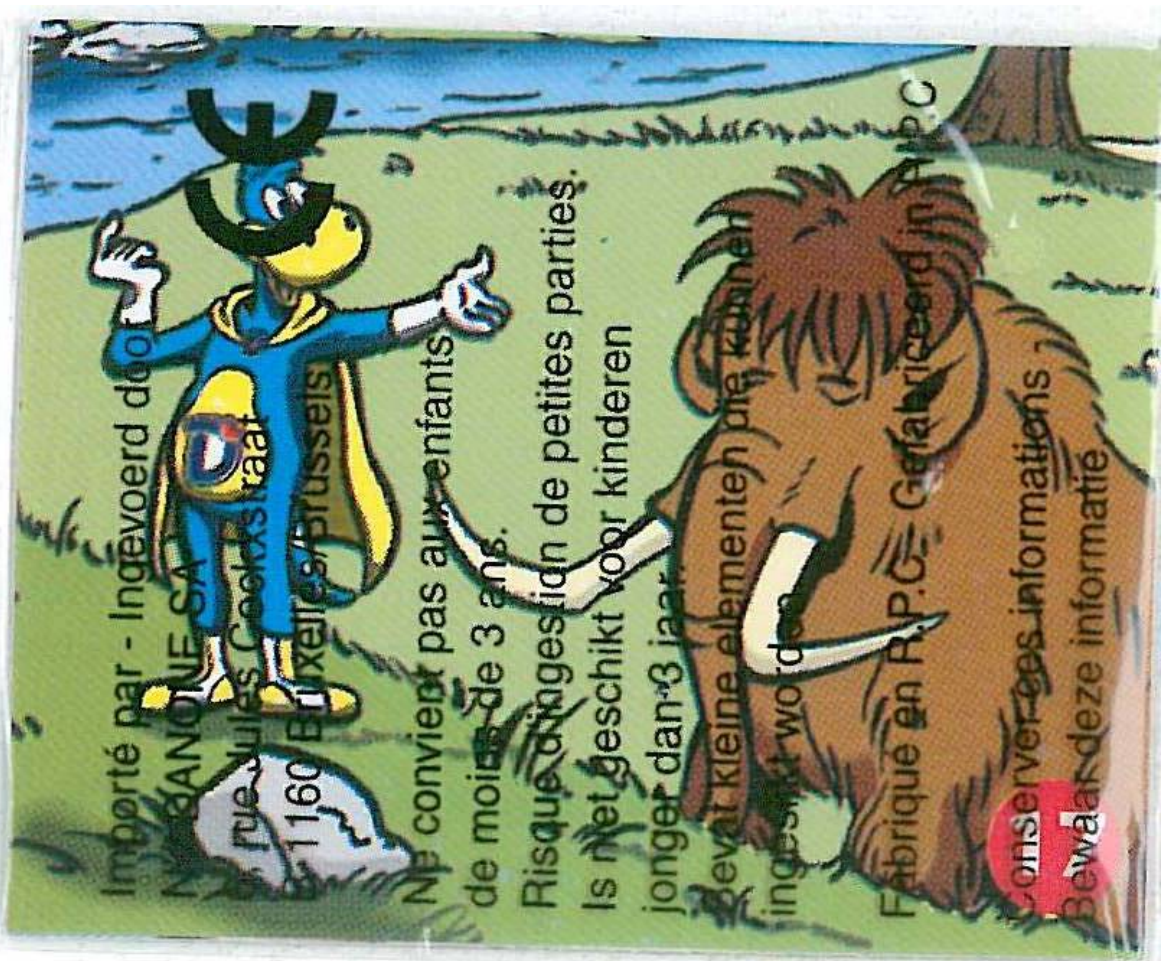
CE



The warning is not horizontally displayed and in very small print. It is therefore almost invisible and barely readable.

«Attention ! Ne convient pas aux enfants de moins de 3 ans : contient de petits éléments.»

The warning
is not legible.



Importé par - Ingevoerd door
N.V. GANONE SA
Rue Jules Coeckxstraat
1160 Bruxelles/Brussels

Ne convient pas aux enfants
de moins de 3 ans.
Risque d'ingestion de petites parties.
Is niet geschikt voor kinderen
jonger dan 3 jaar.

bevat kleine elementen die kunnen
ingeslikt worden

Fabrique en P.P.C. - Gefabriceerd in P.P.C.

Conservez ces informations -
Bewaar deze informatie

The warning is displayed in 32 languages but can not be read.

ENGLISH - WARNING: Plastic bags can be dangerous. To avoid danger of suffocation, keep this bag away from babies and children. Do not use this bag to store food.

AZƏRİCƏ - DİQQƏT: Korpərlərin və uşaqların boğulmasının qarşısını almaq üçün bu paket onlardan uzaq tutunuz. Bu paketə qida saxlamaq üçün istifadə etməyin.

БЪЛГАРСКИ - ВНИМАНИЕ: Пластичните торбички могат да бъдат опасни. За да се избегне опасността от задушаване, чуваште го отдалеч от деца и деца. Не използвайте торбичката за съхранение на храна.

CASTELLANO - CUIDADO: Las bolsas de plástico pueden ser peligrosas. Para evitar el peligro de asfixia, mantener esta bolsa lejos del alcance de los niños y bebés. No utilizar esta bolsa para almacenar alimentos.

CATALÀ - ATENCIÓ: Les bosses de plàstic poden ser perilloses. Per evitar el perill d'asfíxia, mantenint aquesta bossa fora de l'abast dels infants. No s'ha d'utilitzar aquesta bossa per emmagatzemar aliments.

ČESKY - Upozornění: Plastové sáčky mohou být nebezpečné. Sáčky se musí uchovávat daleko od dětí a dětí. Sáčky nesmí být použity k uchování potravy.

DANSK - ADVARSEL: Plastposer kan være farlige. For at undgå risiko for kvælstik, hold posen langt væk fra børn i fremtiden. Brug ikke posen til opbevaring af mad.

DEUTSCH - WARNUNG: Plastikbeutel können gefährlich sein. Diesen Beutel sollte man nicht für Kinder und Kleinkinder in der Nähe haben. Dieser Beutel ist nicht für die Aufbewahrung von Lebensmitteln geeignet.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ - ΠΡΟΕΙΔΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ: Οι πλαστικές σακούλες μπορεί να είναι επικίνδυνες. Τα σακιά πρέπει να φυλάσσονται μακριά από τα παιδιά και τα βρέφη. Τα σακιά δεν πρέπει να χρησιμοποιούνται για αποθήκευση τροφίμων.

EESTI - HOIATUS: Plastikpõlvad võivad olla ohtlikud. Vältimaks laste surmavaid õnnetusi, hoidke seda kotti laste ja väikeste laste eest. Ärge kasutage kotti toidu säilitamiseks.

FRANÇAIS - ATTENTION: Les sachets en plastique peuvent être dangereux. Pour éviter le risque d'étouffement, gardez ce sac loin des enfants et des bébés. Ne réutilisez pas ce sac pour stocker de la nourriture.

HRVATSKI - UPOZORENJE: Plastične vrećice mogu biti opasne. Praznu kesu odmah bacite da se deca u igri ne bi povredila. Nemojte koristiti vrećicu za skladištenje hrane.

ISLENSKA - VARNING: Plástískpokki geta vera ógnarlegir. Hóld þessum pokki langt frá börn og smá börn. Ekki nota þessa pokki til að geyma mat.

ITALIANO - ATTENZIONE: I sacchetti in plastica possono essere pericolosi. Per evitare l'asfissia, tenere questo sacchetto lontano da bambini e bambini. Non riutilizzare questo sacchetto per conservare il cibo.

LATVIEŠU - UZMANĪBU: plastika ietaisnoms var būt bīstams. Nosmakšanas risks bērniem jāizvairās. Šo maisiņu neizmanto pārtikas glabāšanai.

LIETUVU - SPĖJAME: plastikiniai maišeliai gali būti pavojingi. Norint išvengti asfiksijos, maišelį turėtų būti laikoma vaikų ir vaikų. Maišelį nereikėtų naudoti maisto laikymui.

MAGYAR - FIGYELMEZTETÉS: A tasak veszélyes (fulladást okozhat). A fulladás elkerülésének érdekében a tasakat gyermekektől tartssa távol. Ne használja a tasakot élelmiszer tárolására.

MALTI - WISJ: L-imbiegħa ta' plastik jistghu jkun perikolużi. Biex tevita l-periklu ta' soffokazzjoni, zomm din il-borża fejn ma jkunx idja ta' iżjed.

МАКЕДОНСКИ - ВНИМАНИЕ: Пластичните торбички можат да бидат опасни. За да се избегне опасност од задушвање, чуваште го оддалеч од деца и деца. Не користете торбичката за складирање на храна.

NEDERLANDS - LET OP: plastic zak kan gevaarlijk zijn. Houd deze zak buiten het bereik van baby's en kinderen, vanwege het gevaar van verstikking. Gebruik de zak niet voor het opbergen van voedsel.

NORSK - ADVARSEL: Plastikk poser kan være farlige. For å unngå livsfarlig kvælningsrisiko, hold posen langt fra barn i fremtiden. Bruk ikke posen til oppbevaring av mat.

POLSKI - OSTRZEŻENIE: Plastikowe opakowania mogą okazać się niebezpieczne. Aby uniknąć zagrożenia zadławienia, przechowywać opakowania z dala od dzieci. Nie używać opakowań do przechowywania żywności.

PORTUGUÊS - AVISO: Os sacos de plástico podem ser perigosos. Para evitar o perigo de sufoco, manter este saco fora do alcance de bebés e crianças. Não utilizar este saco para armazenar alimentos.

ROMÂNĂ - ATENȚIE: Pungile de plastic pot fi periculoase. Pentru a evita riscul sufocării, nu lăsați această pungă la îndemâna copiilor. Nu utilizați pungă pentru stocarea alimentelor.

РУССКИЙ - ВНИМАНИЕ: Пластиковые пакеты могут быть опасны. Чтобы избежать удушья, храните их вдали от детей. Не используйте пакеты для хранения пищи.

SLOVENSKO - OPOZORENJE: Plastične vrečke lahko nevarna. Da bi se izognili nevarnosti zadušitve, umaknite vrečko stran od dojenčkov in otrok. Ne uporabljajte vrečke za shranjevanje hrane.

SLOVENŠČINA - OPOZORENJE: Plastične vrečke lahko nevarna. Da bi se izognili nevarnosti zadušitve, umaknite vrečko stran od dojenčkov in otrok. Ne uporabljajte vrečke za shranjevanje hrane.

SRPSKI - UPOZORENJE: Plastične kesu mogu biti opasne. Praznu kesu odmah bacite da se deca u igri ne bi povredila. Nemojte koristiti kesu za skladištenje hrane.

SVENSK - VARNING: Plastpåsar kan vara farliga. Håll denna plastpåse borta från ditt barn. Kvävningsrisk. Använd inte påsen för att lagra mat.

SVENSKA - VARNING: Plastpåsar kan vara farliga. Håll denna plastpåse borta från ditt barn. Kvävningsrisk. Använd inte påsen för att lagra mat.

ТРУМ - ВНИМАНИЕ: Пластикові пакети можуть бути небезпечними. Щоб уникнути задушення, тримайте пакети в недоступних для дітей місцях. Не використовуйте пакети для зберігання їжі.

UKRAINSKA - УВАГА! Пластикові пакети можуть бути небезпечними. Щоб уникнути задушення, тримайте пакети в недоступних для дітей місцях. Не використовуйте пакети для зберігання їжі.

CE - IPI Perseco GmbH & Co. KG, 190, 47228 Duisburg, Germany. Internet: www.ipiperseco.com, E-Mail: info@ipiperseco.com

LDPE **PEHd**

80x

Waterballonnen
Wasserballons
ballons d'eau
Globos de agua
Pallonì ad acqua
Balónky na voðu
Balões de água
Bomby wodne
Водные шарик
Su balonları
Vandballoner
Vattenballong
Vizi bomba
Μπαλόνια νερού

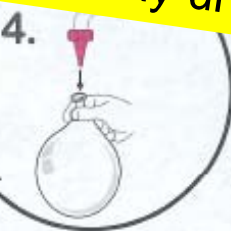
Only to be used outdoors.
 Alleen buiten te gebruiken.
 Nur draußen gebrauchén
 Emploi: uniquement dehors.
 Sólo para usar afuera.
 Solo per uso esterno.
 Je určena pouze k venkovnímu použití.
 Somente usar fora.
 Używać jedynie na wolnym powietrzu.
 Разрешается пользование факелом
 только вне помещений.
 Sadece dışarıda kullanılır.
 Kizárolag kültéri használatra
 Για χρήση σε εξωτερικό χώρο

A T T E N T I O N
 (UK) due to the nature of the article.
 (NL) in verband met de aard van het artikel
 (D) im Zusammenhang mit der Art des Artikels
 (F) en rapport avec la nature de l'article
 (E) en relación con la naturaleza del artículo.
 (I) in relazione alla natura dell'articolo
 (CZ) v souvislosti s druhem výrobku
 (P) devido à natureza do artigo
 (PL) ze względu na rodzaj artykułu
 (RU) в связи со свойствами продукта
 (TR) ürünün ana madde(sinden) dolayıdır
 (DK) på grund af produktets facon/beskaffenhed.
 (S) i samband med beskaffenheten av artikeln
 (H) cikk sajátosságai miatt
 (GR) σε σχέση με το υλικό (φύση) του προϊόντος



FREE & EASY
P.O. BOX 37211
1030 AE AMSTERDAM

(UK) Same address, (NL) Adres bewaren, (D) Anschrift aufbewahren
 (F) Adresse à conserver, (E) Conservar la dirección, (I) Conservare l'indirizzo, (CZ) Adresu uchovat, (P) Guardar o endereço, (PL) Zachować adres, (RU) Сохранить адрес, (TR) Adresi saklayınız, (DK) Gem adressen til evt. senere reference, (S) Spara adressen, (H) A címet őrizze meg, (GR) Κρατήστε τη διεύθυνση, (RO) Păstrați adresa



The warning is not explicit.
 There are also no use instructions even though water balloons are known to present high risks. The 0-3 years symbol is rather well displayed but the other symbol labelled beside it is barely understandable.

A T T
 (UK) due to the nature of the article.
 (NL) in verband met de aard van het artikel
 (D) im Zusammenhang mit der Art des Artikels
 (F) en rapport avec la nature de l'article
 (E) en relación con la naturaleza del artículo

The text accompanying the 0-3 years symbol is barely legible. There is no information about the fact that the toy contains sweets.





8. The teenage / twelve was the champagne / the teenage has to celebrate and
 make a toast / toast.

Be sure neither hand touches the car surface during the press. Push up the approved wedge.
Be sure neither car is free to rotate, slide or otherwise. Push up the approved
phosphate of ammonium tool as indicated.

CE

Revised Manuscript to be reviewed

The warning does
not draw the
consumer's attention
and is barely legible.



There is no warning telling that this toy contains small parts. The only warning is the 0-3 years symbol but it is labelled at the bottom of the pack.



The only warning is the 0-3 years symbol. It does not provide any information about the risks of small parts. Moreover, the batteries are not incorporated in the toy and could easily be swallowed.



No warning is present on the front of pack. Also, the claim "safety tested for children" is highly misleading for consumers as it suggests that the chemical content of the toy has been specifically tested (which is not confirmed on the back of the pack).



"Safety tested formulated for children.
See back of package for additional information."

The toy does not
bear a warning
sign, nor the
familiar 0-3 symbol.



[illegible]

The warning,
although attached to
the toy itself, is not
displayed on the
packaging.

Autostoel spanner
Tendeur siège auto
Kindersitz-Spielband



B A B Y

A

laten drogen
plètement le rembourrage
ollständig trocknen lassen

GB Warning! To prevent possible injury by entanglement, remove this toy when the child begins to push up on hands and knees. Keep this information for reference.

NL Voorzichtig! Om mogelijke verstrikking, te voorkomen, speelgoed verwijderen wanneer de baby begint te kruipen. Deze informatie bewaren.

It is indicated on the back of the pack that the carton piece of the packaging is a "notice d'information". Unfortunately, there is no other information...





The most important warnings are not labelled on the front of the pack.

In addition, the indication that it is for ages 3 and up is confusing for consumers as another warning states that "children under 8 years old can choke".

For ages 3 and up



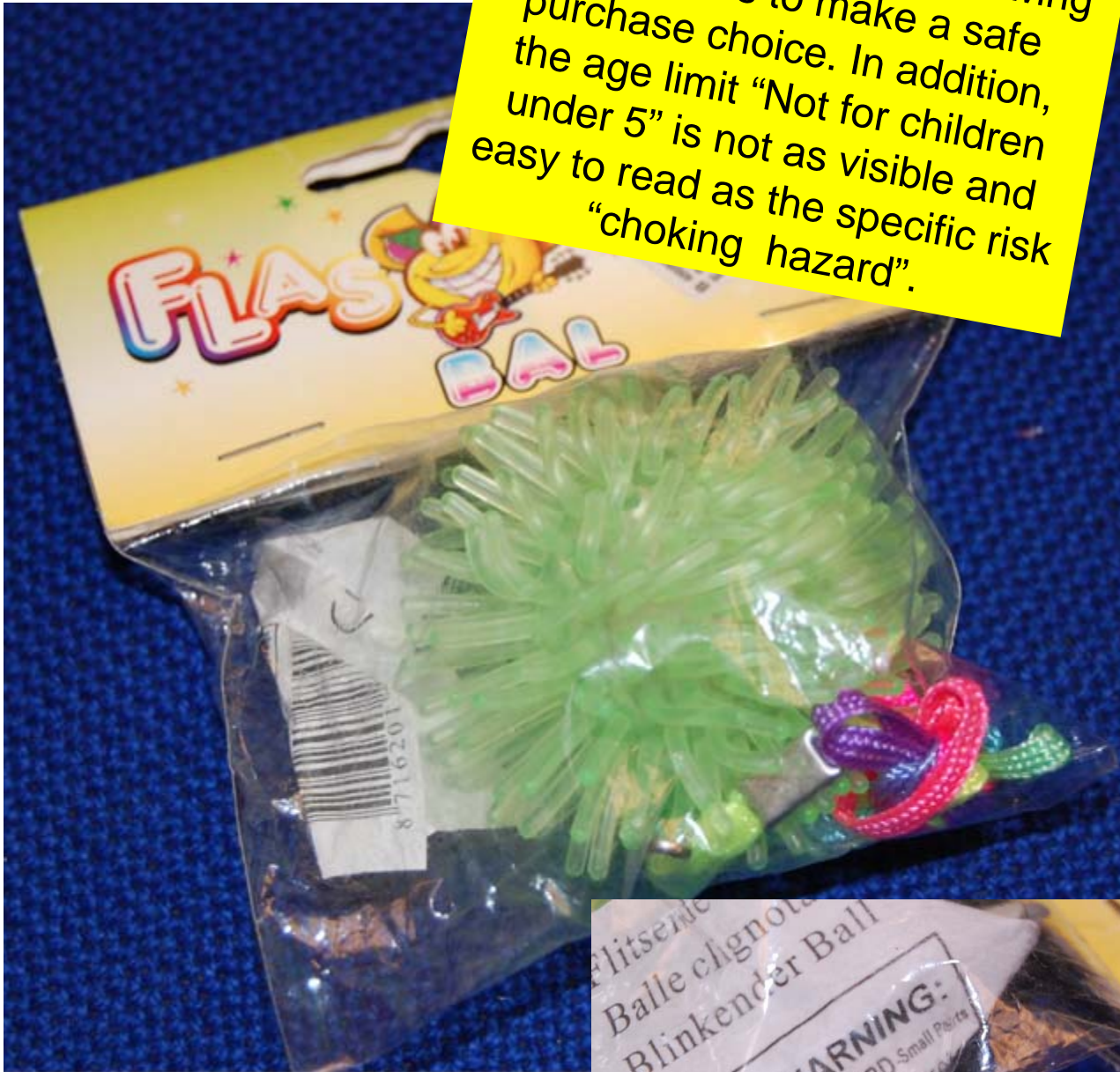
WARNING! Children under eight years old can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Adult supervision required. Keep uninflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once. Keep balloons at a safe distance from the eyes. The use of a balloon pump is recommended. Made of natural rubber latex. Keep packaging for information.



The 0-3 years symbol
is barely visible.
There is no clear
warning about the
choking risk as it is a
lollipop which lights
and contains a
battery.



The warning with an age limit of 8 is not labelled on the packaging thereby not allowing consumers to make a safe purchase choice. In addition, the age limit "Not for children under 5" is not as visible and easy to read as the specific risk "choking hazard".



The design and name of this toy which is not intended for children under three is highly confusing for consumers.



Bracelet Kit

ARMAND-PERLE-SET

back of pack.

[illegible]

The warning is not visible to the buyer. More importantly, the text ("take off all stickers before giving the stuffed toy to the child") is totally irrelevant for the actual content of the package and thereby does not provide the correct information.



ATTENTION: Contient de petites pièces. Ne convient pas aux enfants en dessous de 3 ans.
Retirer toutes les étiquettes avant donner la peluche aux enfants.



The only warning is the 0-3 years symbol. There is no warning which indicates that it contains a blinking light with a battery.



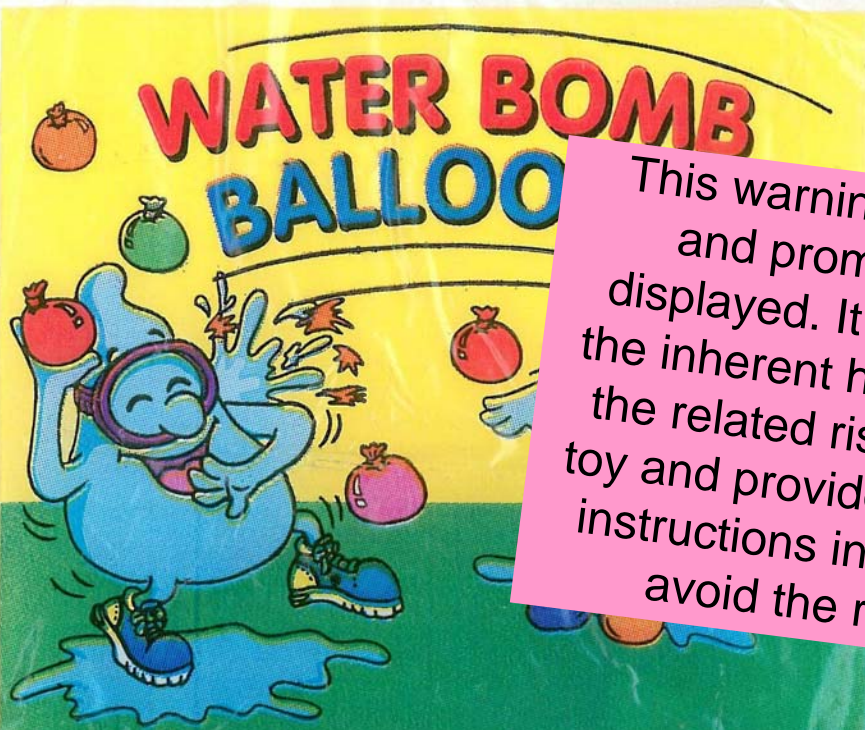
This teddy bear was offered as a gift in a pack of laundry detergent. It bears no visible warnings or any other kind of information.



And finally, an example of
a good warning...

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WATER BOMB BALLOON

This warning is visible and prominently displayed. It relates to the inherent hazard and the related risks of the toy and provides for use instructions in order to avoid the risks.



WARNING:

CHOKING HAZARD - CHILDREN UNDER 8 YEARS CAN CHOKE OR SUFFOCATE ON UNINFLATED OR BROKEN BALLOONS. ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED. KEEP UNINFLATED BALLOONS FROM CHILDREN. DISCARD BROKEN BALLOONS AT ONCE.

MADE IN CHINA