

Guide for Small-Scale Producers of Handmade Toys

Here is some guidance for you, who have a small home production of crocheted or knitted teddies and dolls for resale, because we would like to help you understand more about the requirements that must be in place – and how our test documentation can be read and used.

Many of you, who home-make and run it as a small business, contact us with questions about tests, reports, and the safety of the materials.

It can especially be difficult to figure out what is required to comply with the rules for toys for children under three years. For example, when you crochet a teddy for this age group and sell it, it is considered a toy that must be able to pass the same standards as a toy bought in a shop – and it is your responsibility.

This guide does **not** provide a ready-made recipe for how to do everything correctly, but it can help to understand the requirements better and provide insight into how our tests work, and how you can use them in your own documentation work.

Material safety

- Almost all our yarns have an OEKO-TEX certificate, which covers all colours in the range.
- The yarns most often used for crocheting and knitting toys for children under three years are tested according to EN 71-3.
- EN 71-3 is a test for 19 chemical substances in toy products that children may come into contact with.
- All our accessories – e.g. teething rings, wooden rings and similar products – are also covered by test reports. If you use our materials, you are welcome to refer to or include our test reports and certificates in your own documentation.

Understanding tests and documentation

- Not every product has its own individual test report – many parts share materials, and one test can therefore cover several products, e.g. different sizes of eyes made from the same plastic.

How long is a test report valid?

- A test does not expire simply because it is, for example, 12 or 18 months old.
- If raw materials and the production process remain unchanged, an earlier test can still be valid, and even after many years it will still be valid for the production that was tested.
- When standards change, it may be that only the requirements for individual materials or substances are altered. Requirements that are irrelevant for the material we have tested.
- If something changes in production, a new test is carried out. For example, we once had a pacifier clip that by mistake was produced with two screws instead of one. When a pacifier clip is not identical to the model that was tested, we make sure to carry out a new test to document that the product still meets the requirements of the standard. Therefore, we now have two reports for almost identical products.

When you use our products:

- Collect the relevant test reports from our website – but only if you have used our materials.
- Write down which materials you have used for each finished product.
- Note how you have assembled the parts safely, and if relevant, refer to our assembly guides and videos.

In this way you can show that you have used the guidance and documentation we provide, and how you have, overall, addressed the product safety of your product.

More help:

- Watch our YouTube video that shows how eyes can be assembled safely and documented.
- On our website you can find the guide "Crochet and knitting – Safe handling and assembling", which is full of illustrations and text that help you to better understand the safety requirements.

Our guides etc. are not legal advice, but a basic and practical supplement to your own work to ensure your product is safe.

Why we share this guide

We share this guide because we have ourselves experienced how difficult it is to understand – and even to find information about – what needs to be in place when, like us, you are a supplier of DIY products that are used for teddies, dolls, and figures for children under three years.

We also receive more and more enquiries from private individuals who have a home production and use parts from our Go handmade collection. In principle, they run their own small business and must handle their own tests and reports.

Many might think that it is not our task to share our experiences. But because product safety – especially when it concerns children under three years – is so important and so difficult to find help with, we would like to share what we have learned ourselves, so that it can support the very small producers.

I struggled for several years to find clear answers – both from test institutes and from authorities. In 2022 I wrote a critical letter to the Sikkerhedsstyrelsen (the Danish Authority for Product Safety) about the problems and misunderstandings I encountered in working with product safety. I received a polite but unclear reply, and several years later nothing has changed.

The letter is available on our website, and many hobby producers have said that it helped them to read about my own frustrations. They could see that they were not alone – and it gave them a better understanding of how to approach safety.

That is why we share this guide: not to promise safety, but to provide the insight and understanding that we ourselves have gained and missed. We hope it can make it easier for you to work correctly and safely with your products.