

7 On Your Side received the following response from Toy Industry Association:

Question: What progress if any has been made in eliminating lead and other chemicals from children's toys?

Response:

There has been much activity in the past 12-18 months to ensure the safety of toys. The industry, retailers, government and consumer representatives have been working year-round in this effort. Here's how:

(1) New comprehensive consumer product safety legislation was passed by Congress this year -- and was widely supported by industry and consumer reps alike. This is an aggressive piece of legislation that should reassure consumers on the safety of toys sold in the US.

(2) All eyes are on toys -- toy companies, retailers, govt. -- have all been inspecting and testing toys. The federal government (US Consumer product Safety Commission) announced a few weeks ago that they have substantially increased their enforcement and are finding far fewer issues.

This activity and attention should re-assure consumers in the safety of products on store shelves. And, in my opinion, this is the real news this year.

Question: Why does this remain a problem given the new regulations going into effect in February and the extensive publicity this issue received in past years?

Response:

The Toy Industry Association finds the report from Healthytoys.org is misleading to consumers, at best. The "testing" that they performed is not recognized as appropriate for determining compliance with our US standards for toys and does not provide an accurate or full picture of the safety of products. We continue to hear from companies that have been named in this report that they have full and accurate test reports demonstrating the safety of their products. Even the Healthytoys.org report acknowledges that their own ratings, "do not provide a measure of health risk or chemical exposure associated with any individual toy..."