

# GLOBBER

THE WORLD ON WHEELS



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**- TEST REPORT**

In Hong Kong, on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019



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**MORE THAN HALF OF  
CHILDREN'S SCOOTERS  
DO NOT MEET TOY  
SAFETY STANDARDS.**

Scooters are very popular toys, especially in parks and residential estates. However, as they have the potential to cause accidents and injuries, it is essential to purchase a scooter that is safe to use. In a test of 15 different children's scooters, we found that more than half of those sampled failed to meet toy safety standards, while others contained PAHs that exceeded the levels permitted by German 'GS Mark' certification standards.

# The test examined 4 2-wheel and 11 3-wheel scooters

There are 2-wheel and 3-wheel scooters for children on the market. 2-wheel scooters work in the same way as a bicycle - the user needs to be able to balance correctly, therefore they are not particularly suitable for very young children. 3-wheel scooters feature either two wheels at the back and one at the front, or two wheels at the front and one at the back. These scooters are easier to control and are ideal for young children.

We conducted a test of 15 scooters, including 4 2-wheel and 11 3-wheel models, with retail prices ranging from HK\$198 to HK\$850. The samples were provided by department stores, toy stores and scooter retailers. The maximum load of each model ranged from 20 to 65 kg. All of the 2-wheeled models had a foldable design for enhanced portability, in contrast to only 3 of the 3-wheeled models.

## Mechanical and physical testing

### 5 models met all safety standards

The mechanical and physical safety features of each model were tested by an independent Hong Kong laboratory in accordance with EU EN 71-1 toy safety standards. According to these safety standards, the maximum load of toy scooters must not exceed 50 kg. 21st Scooter's R4E (sample no. 8) and Razor's A2 Kick Scooter (sample no. 15) had a maximum stated load of 60 kg and 65 kg respectively, and therefore cannot be classified as toys. Nevertheless, as these products are marketed as suitable for children aged 5/6 or above and children of this age can be expected to use scooters as toys, these products were included in the test report for reference purposes.

### Five models passed all tests and were equipped with labels providing detailed product information: the Globber Primo (sample no. 1),

HTI's Disney Toy Story Move & Groove Scooter (sample no. 2), the Avigo Twisty Scooter (sample no. 3), the Zinc Interceptor Scooter (sample no. 12) and HTI's Hello Kitty Folding Scooter (sample no. 13). 21st Scooter's R4E (sample no. 8) and the Avigo Folding In-line Scooter (sample no. 14) also passed all of the tests, although the label information and/or packaging did not meet the required standards. The other 8 samples had structural issues, weak steering tubes, substandard components, or poor packaging/label information.

### All samples met the necessary braking standards

Most scooters feature a fender brake on the rear wheel that brings the scooter to a gradual stop when stepped on. The fender brakes on all 15 samples conformed to the necessary standards, i.e. they were effective with a load of 59.3 kg on a surface with a 10° slope.

### 5 samples presented potential trap hazards

According to the certification standards, the gap between the wheel and chassis must not be within the range of 5-12 mm, as this may cause children's fingers to become trapped. The Y-Volution Y Glider XL (sample no. 6), the Mesuca Marvel Spider-Sense Spiderman 3 Wheel Scooter (sample no. 7), the Fei Yue 'Extreme Prince' scooter (sample no. 9), the Mesuca Disney Frozen Multi-Function Scooter (sample no. 10) and the Razor A2 Kick Scooter (sample no. 15) all had a gap of 5-12 mm and therefore failed to meet the required standards.



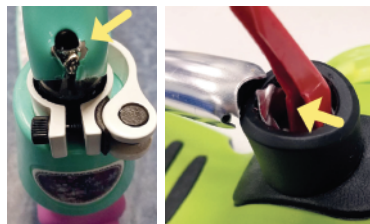
The test examined whether the gap between the wheel and frame could cause fingers to become trapped.

### The handlebar grips diameter was too small on 3 samples

If the diameter of the handlebar grips is too small, it may cause injuries to the feet or other parts of the body if the rider falls off the scooter. Certification standards require that the handlebar grips must have a diameter of at least 40 mm. The Mesuca Marvel Spider-Sense Spiderman 3 Wheel Scooter (sample no. 7), the Scooter SSWT-929 (sample no. 11) and the **Razor A2 Kick Scooter (sample no. 15)** failed to meet these standards, featuring a handlebar grips diameter in the range of 34.9 mm to 38.5 mm. In addition, the diameter of the front wheels on samples 7, 10, 11 and 15 was less than the required minimum (120 mm). If the front wheel is too small, the scooter may become unstable or trapped when it travels over an uneven surface or gaps in the road, which may cause the rider to fall off.

### 5 samples had weak handlebar grips or decks

According to certification standards, the steering tube should not collapse, break or bend when the end of each handlebar grips is subjected to a load of 50 kg for 5 minutes. In addition, the locking device used to fix the steering tube in place must remain engaged and operable to prevent the steering tube from becoming deformed when subjected to an impact, which may cause the rider to lose balance and fall over. After a 5-minute test, the steering tube on the Fei Yue 'Extreme Prince' (sample no. 9) and the Mesuca Disney Frozen Multi-Function Scooter (sample no. 10) had broken or become dislodged, and the locking mechanism on the ScooTer SSWT-929 (sample no. 11) was damaged. The steering tube on the Ozbozz Minion Twist Scooter (sample no. 5) and the Y-Volution Y Glider XL (sample no. 6) remained intact, but the deck or connecting components on the bottom of the deck were damaged.



On some models, the steering tube snapped or became dislodged during strength tests.

### Defective components were identified in one sample during tensile testing

Components may break or become detached when children play with toys; these components have the potential to cause injuries. According to toy safety standards, toys designed for children under 3 years of age must not contain any small parts, as they may cause choking or suffocation. **The Micro Mini Micro Deluxe (sample no. 4) is labelled as suitable for children under 3 years of age, but some of the stickers and labels on the chassis broke into small parts during tensile testing and therefore failed to meet certification standards.**

### 3 samples were packaged in thin plastic bags that constituted a choking hazard

Testing showed that the Mesuca Marvel Spider-Sense Spiderman 3 Wheel Scooter (sample no. 7), the Fei Yue 'Extreme Prince' (sample no. 9) and the Avigo Folding Inline Scooter (sample no. 14) were packaged in a plastic bag with an average thickness of less than the required standard of 0.038 mm. Thin plastic bags may cause choking or suffocation when placed over the mouth or nose.

### 8 samples did not meet labelling standards

The packaging, labels and/or instruction manuals of the Mesuca Marvel Spider-Sense Spiderman 3 Wheel Scooter (sample no. 7), the 21st ScooTer R4E (sample no. 8), the Fei Yue 'Extreme Prince' (sample no. 9), the Mesuca Disney Frozen Multi-Function Scooter (sample no. 10), the ScooTer SSWT-929 (sample no. 11) and **the Razor A2 Kick Scooter (sample no. 15) did not contain all of the required warnings or safety information**, such as "Warning! Protective equipment should be worn", "Not suitable for use on roads", or "This scooter should be used with caution, as a certain level of skill is required to avoid falls or collisions causing injury to the user or third parties".

The Avigo Folding Inline Scooter (sample no. 14) did not label the required warnings correctly, while the Ozbozz Minion Twist Scooter (sample no. 5) did not feature the word "Warning" on the steering tube.

## Migration of certain elements – satisfactory performance

We tested all accessible parts in the samples for the migration of 19 different elements in accordance with the EU's EN 71-3 standards. These included aluminium, antimony, arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, chromium (III), chromium (VI), cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, strontium, tin, organic tin compounds and zinc. According to our tests, all of the samples met the necessary requirements, with none of the models releasing quantities in excess of European standards.

## PAH testing

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are impurities commonly found in plastics, rubber and lubricating oils, and may also be present in products made of these materials. In some European countries, traces of PAHs have been found in tool handlebar grips, bicycle/scooter handlebar grips, sports equipment and toys, most commonly in rubber and soft or dark-coloured plastics. There are more than 100 different PAHs, some of which are known carcinogens. PAHs with a high molecular weight are usually the most toxic, although the health impact depends on the concentration as well as the method and duration of contact.

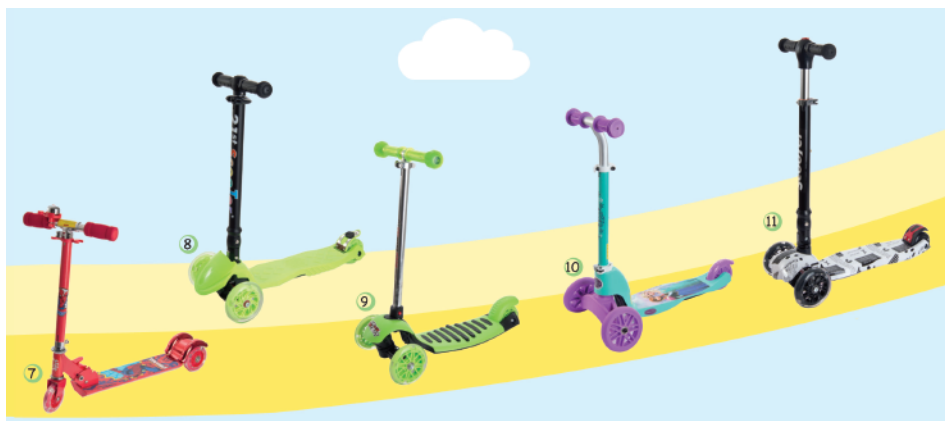
Hong Kong does not have a maximum limit for the concentration of PAHs in toys or children's products. However, the **European Union has issued PAH restrictions for consumer products and toys in Regulation No. 1272/2013 (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)), which came into force on 27 December 2015.**

According to research conducted on animals, benzo[a]pyrene, benzo[e]pyrene, benzo[a]anthracene, chrysene, benzo[b]fluoranthene, benzo[j]fluoranthene, benzo[k]fluoranthene and dibenzo[a,h]anthracene are carcinogenic. The European Union classifies these PAHs as substances that are 'presumed to have carcinogenic potential for humans'. According to REACH regulations, the concentration of these 8 PAHs in rubber/plastic parts that may be chewed or present in parts of toys that can be reasonably expected to come into prolonged or repeated direct contact with the skin during use must not exceed 0.5 mg/kg.

Germany's 'GS Mark' voluntary safety standards place even tougher restrictions on the concentration of PAHs in toys. In addition to restricting the concentration of the 8 PAHs mentioned in the REACH regulations, it also restricts levels of 10 other PAHs (namely benzo[g,h,i]perylene, indeno[1,2,3-c,d]pyrene, acenaphthene, acenaphthylene, anthracene, fluoranthene, fluorene, naphthalene, phenanthrene and pyrene) and stipulates a maximum total PAH concentration. For toy parts that will come into prolonged contact (longer than 30 seconds) with the skin (e.g. handlebar grips), total levels of these 18 PAHs must not exceed 1 mg/kg, while naphthalene levels must not exceed 1 mg/kg. For toy parts that can be reasonably expected to come into prolonged or repeated short-term contact with the skin (e.g. decorative stickers on the end of handlebar grips), total PAH levels must not exceed 5 mg/kg, while naphthalene levels must not exceed 2 mg/kg.

In order to encourage manufacturers to improve product safety, **we tested the levels of 18 PAHs in the parts of the handlebar grips that are intended to come into contact with the skin.** The tests were conducted in accordance with the 'GS 2014:01 PAK' PAH testing specifications issued by the AfPS (German Committee for Product Safety).





# Test results

Sample No.	Brand	Product Name & model <sup>[1]</sup>	Retail Price <sup>[2]</sup>	Spec & Info <sup>[3]</sup>				
				Weight (kg)	Age range	Max. load (kg)	Fold-able?	Adjustable T-bar?
3-wheel scooter								
1	GLOBBER	Primo	\$580	2.4	3Y+	50	-	√
2	HTI	Disney Toy Story Move & Groove Scooter	\$399	1.6	3Y+	20	-	-
3	Avigo	Twisty Scooter	\$200	2.0	3Y+	50	-	-
4	Micro	Mini Micro Deluxe / MMD003	\$850	2.0	2-5Y	35	-	√
5	Ozbozz	Minion Twist Scooter	\$350	1.9	3Y+	20	-	-
6	Y-Volution	Y Glider XL	\$765	2.7	5-9Y+	50	-	√
7	Mesuca	Marvel Spider-Sense Spiderman 3 wheel Scooter / DCA21186-S	\$288	1.8	3Y+	40	√	√
8	21st ScooTer	R4E <span>▲▼</span>	\$380	3.4	6Y+	60	√	√
9	Fei Yue	Extreme Prince, Kids Scooter	\$198	2.5	3Y+	35	-	√
10	Mesuca	Disney Frozen Multi-Function Scooter / DXK35-Q <span>▼</span>	\$390	2.5	3Y+	30	-	√
11	ScooTer	SSWT-929 <span>▼</span>	\$220	2.7	3Y+	40	√	√
2-wheel scooter								
12	Zinc	Interceptor Scooter/ZC03660	\$350	3.0	5Y+	50	√	√
13	HTI	Hello Kitty Folding Scooter/ 1436255	\$399	1.9	5Y+	50	√	√
14	Avigo	Folding Inline Scooter/13939RD	\$200	2.0	5Y+	50	√	√
15	Razor	A² Kick Scooter <span>▲</span>	\$699	2.5	5Y+	65	√	√

Mechanical & Physical test [4]					Migration of certain elements [10]	PAH levels in handle [11]			FINAL SCORE [12]
Structure & clearances [1][5]	T-bar Strengths [6]	Small components [7]	Packaging & labelling [1][8]	Overall score [9]		Parts that come into prolonged contact with the skin (mg/kg)	Parts that can be reasonably expected to come into prolonged or repeated short-term contact with the skin (mg/kg)	Overall score	
						--	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	1.2 (1.2)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	2.2 (1.4)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●e	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	0.4 (0.4)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●	●●●●●d	●●●●●	●●●●●f	●●●●●	●●●●●	0.8-2.6 (0.4-1.4)	0.8 (0.2)	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●a	●●●●●d	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	0.4 (0.4)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●abc	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●fg	●●●●●	●●●●●	0.2-0.8 (0.8)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●▲fh	●●●●●	●●●●●	5.8 (5.8)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●a	●●●●●d	●●●●●	●●●●●fg	●●●●●	●●●●●	1.2 (1.2)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●ab	●●●●●d	●●●●●	●●●●●f	●●●●●	●●●●●	1.4 (1.4)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●bc	●●●●●d	●●●●●	●●●●●fh	●●●●●	●●●●●	0.4 (0.4)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
						0.6-2.8 (0.2-1.3)	0.8	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	3.1 (1.4)	3.3 (2.7)	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●fg	●●●●●	●●●●●	0.4-1.6 (0.4)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
●●●●●abc▲	●●●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●f▲	●●●●●	●●●●●	2.3 (0.8)	◆	●●●●●	★★★★★
Maximum level required by 'GS Mark' standards						1 (1)	5 (2)		

## Remarks:

More ● or ★ indicate a better score. The maximum score is 5.

'-' denotes that the corresponding feature is not indicated, or that the product does not have the corresponding feature/design. '---' indicates that the corresponding test was not conducted.

Samples with the same score are listed in alphabetical order (by manufacturer's name).

- [1] ▲ The stated maximum load of sample nos. 8 and 15 exceeds the maximum load specified in the EN71-1 standards (50 kg). In accordance with these standards, these samples cannot be defined as toys. However, as these products are marketed as suitable for children aged 5/6 or above and children of this age can be expected to use scooters as toys, these products were included in the test for reference purposes only.  
▼ Includes parts that can transform the scooter into a 2-wheeled version.  
▼ Sample nos. 8 and 11 feature a single rear wheel unit with two wheels. These models function in a similar way to 3-wheeled scooters.  
All samples were labelled as 'Made in China'.
- [2] Retail prices are approximate and were provided by retail agents or obtained by the Consumer Council during a market survey conducted in July 2017. Retail prices may vary between retailers. Some products had been discontinued at the time the market survey was conducted. The retail price shown is the price for which the sample was purchased.
- [3] Specifications were provided by retail agents or obtained from the packaging or measurements conducted by the Consumer Council.
- [4] Tests were conducted in accordance with the EU's EN 71-1 toy safety standards.
- [5] a. The clearance between the wheels and frame was between 5-12 mm (structural improvements required).  
b. The diameter of the front wheel was less than the required minimum of 120 mm.  
c. The diameter of the end of the handle was less than required minimum of 40 mm.
- [6] d. In samples 5 and 6, the deck or connecting components on the bottom of the deck were damaged during our strength tests.  
In samples 9, 10 and 11, the steering tube was damaged/became dislodged or the locking mechanism became defective during our strength tests.
- [7] e. During our tensile tests, some of the stickers on the frame and other decorative stickers became detached and split into small parts.
- [8] f. The packaging, instruction manual or product did not feature all of the warnings required by the certification standards.  
g. The thickness of plastic packaging was less than 0.038 mm, which may cause choking or suffocation when placed over the mouth or nose.  
h. The instruction manual did not contain information on how to fold the scooter.
- [9] Weighting of test criteria for mechanical and physical tests:  

Structure and wheel clearance	45%	Small components	15%
Steering tube strength	30%	Packaging and labelling	10%

 The overall score is calculated using the above weighting criteria. The formula also includes a limit factor that reduces the overall score if a product does not perform well in an important test.
- [10] Tests were conducted in accordance with the EU's EN 71-3 toy safety standards. All samples met the requirements for the migration of 19 different elements.
- [11] We tested the levels of 18 PAHs in the handles of each sample. The tests were conducted in accordance with the 'GS 2014:01 PAK' PAH testing specifications issued by the AIPS (German Committee for Product Safety).  
◆ Indicates that the end of the handles did not feature decorative stickers. As a result, the parts with intended prolonged skin contact were made from the same materials as the parts with foreseeable prolonged skin contact or repeated short-term skin contact, therefore it was only necessary to test the handles once.  
All samples met the EU's REACH requirements for PAH levels (Regulation No. 1272/2013). None of the 8 PAHs specified in the regulations were detected.  
In tests of the parts with intended prolonged skin contact, the total PAH concentration of 10 samples exceeded the maximum specified in the 'GS Mark' standards, with levels ranging from 1.2 mg/kg to 5.8 mg/kg. 8 samples contained naphthalene levels in excess of the GS Mark limit (1 mg/kg).  
( ) The figure in brackets indicates the naphthalene concentration or the specified limit.
- [12] Overall score weighting:  

Mechanical and physical tests:	65%	PAH levels in handle	30%
Migration of certain elements	5%		

 The overall score is calculated using the above weighting criteria. The formula also includes a limit factor that reduces the overall score if a product does not perform well in an important test.

## All handles met REACH standards and no traces of carcinogenic BaP were found

In all samples, none of the 8 PAHs specified in the REACH regulations were detected in any parts of the handle that come into contact with the skin, including the known carcinogen benzo[a]pyrene (BaP).

## Small traces of PAHs were found in most samples

Apart from the handle of the Globber Primo (sample no. 1), which did not contain any of the 18 PAHs tested for in this study, the handles of the other 14 samples contained varying levels of PAHs in parts with intended prolonged skin contact and/or parts with foreseeable

## **prolonged skin contact or repeated short-term skin contact.**

In 4 samples (the Micro Mini Micro Deluxe (sample no. 4), the Y-Volution Y Glider XL (sample no. 6), the Mesuca Marvel Spider-Sense Spiderman 3 Wheel Scooter (sample no. 7) and the ScooTer SSWT-929 (sample no. 11)), traces of PAHs were detected in parts of the handle with intended prolonged skin contact, but the total concentration did not exceed the GS Mark limit. The handles of the other 10 samples – the Disney Toy Story Move & Groove Scooter (sample no. 2), the Avigo Twisty Scooter (sample no. 3), the Ozbozz Minion Twist Scooter (sample no. 5), the 21st ScooTer R4E (sample no. 8), the Fei Yue 'Extreme Prince' (sample no. 9), the Mesuca Disney Frozen Multi-Function Scooter (sample no. 10), the Zinc Interceptor Scooter (sample no. 12), the HTI Hello Kitty Folding Scooter (sample no. 13), the Avigo Folding Inline Scooter (sample no. 14) and the Razor A2 Kick Scooter (sample no. 15) – contained maximum PAH concentrations of 1.2 mg/kg to 5.8 mg/kg, higher than the limit specified in the GS Mark standards (1 mg/kg).

Traces of naphthalene were found in 14 samples, 8 of which (nos. 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13) contained concentrations higher than the GS Mark limit (1 mg/kg). The maximum naphthalene levels in these samples ranged from 1.2 to 5.8 mg/kg.

Only samples 5, 12 and 13 featured decorative stickers on the ends of the handles, which have the potential to come into contact with children's skin during use. We decided to test whether levels of naphthalene and the 18 PAHs in the GS Mark standards exceeded the specified limit (2 mg/kg and 5 mg/kg respectively) for parts that can be reasonably expected to come into prolonged or repeated short-term contact with the skin. According to the results, the stickers on these three samples all contained traces of PAHs, although concentrations did not exceed the GS Mark limit. Only sample no. 13 contained naphthalene levels that were slightly higher than the specified limit of 2 mg/kg (2.7 mg/kg).

### **How to reduce the impact of PAHs in toy scooters**

**When children grip the handles on a scooter, PAHs may be absorbed into the body via the skin. Some of the samples contained naphthalene** – a highly volatile substance with a low molecular weight. Naphthalene **may cause skin irritation and dermatitis**, especially in people with sensitive skin. However, in most cases naphthalene absorbed through the skin is not sufficient to cause acute conditions (e.g. jaundice or haemolysis). **When inhaled at high concentrations, it may cause headaches, nausea, vomiting and eye irritation.**

According to dermatologist Dr. Chan Hau Ngai, a member of the Hong Kong Medical Association, children may be exposed to a range of PAHs when engaging in daily activities. **PAHs and naphthalene can usually cause irritation and dermatitis when they come into contact with the skin.** As skin wounds can increase the amount of PAHs absorbed by the body, parents should avoid allowing their children to play with scooters until wounds have healed. After use, children should wash their hands with warm water or soap to avoid ingesting PAHs when touching food.

### **Are people with G6PD deficiency more prone to developing symptoms from PAH exposure?**

People who suffer from G6PD deficiency (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency) are at the greatest risk from naphthalene exposure, as it may cause haemolysis. In order to prevent the rupture of red blood cells, patients must never take any medication or come into contact with mothballs and other pesticides that contain naphthalene. Common symptoms in patients who suffer an acute response include fatigue, breathing difficulties and an elevated heart rate. According to the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (the BfR), naphthalene poisoning can occur when pharmaceuticals or other products containing naphthalene are inhaled, ingested or come into contact with the skin. Haemolytic anaemia caused by the inhalation of naphthalene vapour usually occurs after exposure to relatively high concentrations of naphthalene, the likes of which is not to be expected with consumer products. According to research conducted by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, small quantities of naphthalene in rubber or plastic products are unlikely to cause haemolytic anaemia.



The levels of naphthalene detected in the scooter handles were much lower than the levels usually found in mothballs or other pesticides used to protect clothing, and are therefore unlikely to result in haemolytic anaemia. Dr. Chan Hau Ngai noted that scooters are usually used outdoors – as the air circulates, it is unlikely that children will inhale high concentrations of naphthalene.

### Encouraging manufacturers to reduce PAH levels in toys and children's products

Children may be exposed to a range of different PAHs during daily activities. Over time, it is possible that prolonged exposure may have a detrimental impact on health. In order to reduce the health impact on children, we encourage manufacturers and suppliers to keep up to date with the latest toy regulations and standards in different countries and use materials with no or lower levels of PAHs.

## Customs regulations

Toys sold in Hong Kong are subject to the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance and its supplementary provisions. These regulations stipulate that manufacturers, importers and suppliers of toys must comply with all applicable requirements contained in one of the three sets of toy standards listed in Schedule 1: (1) European BS EN 71 standards; (2) ASTM F963-11 standards issued by ASTM International; and (3) International ISO:8124 standards. In response to this test report, the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department has promised to investigate the products that failed to comply with European standards. The Hong Kong customs authorities take safety issues seriously – they frequently investigate complaints from consumers and conduct on-site inspections of retailers to purchase samples and send them to government laboratories for testing. Enforcement measures are used to combat non-compliance.

## Feedback from manufacturers

The manufacturer of HTI scooters (sample nos. 2 and 13) stated that its scooter models comply with EN 71-1 and EN 71-3 regulations as well as the REACH regulations on PAH concentrations. A test report was provided as evidence. According to the manufacturer, our tests prove that sample nos. 2 and 13 comply with the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance, and that the materials used in the handlebar grips comply with European PAH regulations.

The agent of Micro scooters (sample no. 4) stated that its scooters have been verified by numerous laboratories as compliant with EN 71-1 standards. The company claims that the stickers which became detached from the chassis were an isolated incident and that the manufacturer has strict testing standards for all manufacturing processes. According to the agent, the product has undergone numerous tests since it went on sale several years ago, none of which identified areas of non-compliance. With regard to the decorative stickers, the company claimed that these were provided as free gifts and that they are no longer included with the product.

According to the manufacturer of Ozbozz scooters (sample no. 5), laboratory tests have verified that its scooter models comply with EN 71-1 and EN 71-3 regulations as well as the REACH regulations on PAH concentrations, and that its model is therefore compliant with the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance. A test report was provided as evidence. The company did not agree with our test report and stated that the failed EN 71-1 steering tube strength test was the result of different testing methods. It also claimed that the product has undergone numerous lab tests since it went on sale several years ago, none of which identified areas of non-compliance. According to the manufacturer, our PAH tests prove that the handlebar grips of sample no. 5 comply with the EU's PAH regulations and Hong Kong standards. It also claims that the GS Mark PAH standards are too stringent. (We would like to point out that Hong Kong does not have a maximum limit for the concentration of PAHs in toys or children's products.)

In response to our test report, the manufacturer of Mesuca scooters (samples no. 7 and 10) stated that it would improve the design of its products to ensure that they comply with European toy safety requirements. It also promised to purchase safer materials to reduce the concentration of PAHs in its products.

The agent of 21st ScooTer (sample no. 8) promised to update its Chinese instruction manual and provide an English version to ensure compliance with European toy safety standards. It also claimed that the manufacturer had not been informed of any plans by the US or European countries to implement the GS 2014:01 PAK standards issued by the German Product Safety Commission, therefore reductions in PAH concentrations were unlikely.

## **PRECAUTIONS**

### **Location**

- Scooters should be used in a safe location away from roads.
- Avoid riding scooters in busy places (e.g. pavements or shopping malls), as this may cause an accident.
- Do not use scooters on slippery or uneven surfaces.

### **Before purchase**

- Check that the scooter comes with an instruction manual and is properly labelled. Choose your scooter based on the age range, maximum load and other specifications stated on the product.
- Two-wheeled scooters require more advanced balancing skills. Choose the correct type of scooter based on your child's ability.

### **During use**

- Wear suitable protective equipment such as a helmet, elbow pads, knee pads and trainers. Long sleeves and trousers help to reduce the risk of injury if your child falls off the scooter.
- Do not allow your child to jump onto the scooter. If your child loses balance, they should step off the scooter immediately.
- Do not use the scooter on slopes, as the rear brake is not designed for downhill use and therefore is not able to stop the scooter if it is going down a slope.
- Supervise your child at all times and keep an eye on pedestrians and surrounding objects to prevent your child from causing an injury to themselves or others.
- Tell your child to wash their hands with warm water and soap immediately after using the scooter to prevent exposure to PAHs, heavy metals and other harmful substances.

### **Care and maintenance**

- Inspect the scooter before use and check that all screws are tight.
- Regularly inspect components and the deck for signs of wear or damage.
- After use, use a damp cloth to wipe the handlebar grips, deck and wheels.



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