**EU Exit - Important changes to the requirements for placing Toys on the market**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The UK has left the EU and as part of the Withdrawal Agreement a Transition Period was agreed that came to an end on 31 December 2020. The Northern Ireland Protocol came into force on 1 January 2021. For as long as it is in force, Northern Ireland will align with all relevant EU rules relating to the placing on the market of manufactured goods. This includes EU regulations for Toy Safety.

In view of this I would draw your attention to the attached guide for businesses placing toys on the market in Northern Ireland from 1st January 2021.  If you also place goods on the GB market you must follow the rules for the GB market and separate guidance is attached for your information. Both documents are also available in electronic form on the gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/toys-safety-regulations-2011>

The main changes to note that have taken effect from the end of the Transition Period on 31st December are:

**Conformity Assessments & Marking**

You should check if you need to change your conformity assessment or marking. In Northern Ireland, conformity markings continue to be used to show toys meet the essential safety requirements.

**Where a toy is being placed on the market in NI, and the manufacturer chooses to have it conformity assessed by an EU recognised body, the marking for the NI and EEA markets continues to be the CE marking**.

If you are using a UK body to carry out mandatory third-party conformity assessment you **also** need to apply a UKNI marking (sometimes referred to as the UK(NI) mark or the UK(NI) indication).

Toys that do not fall within the definition of qualifying NI goods will need to meet the GB rules, including being UKCA marked, if placed on the GB market after 31 December 2021.

Further guidance on Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods is provided in the attached guidance. Separate guidance on when and how to use the UKNI marking is also available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukni-marking-from-1-january-2021>

**If you would like further information, or to discuss changes to Product Safety legislation that might affect your business please contact the department on 028 90340160 or email the Environmental Health Department on** **envhealth@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk**

I would be grateful if you could complete the short survey attached and return via email as soon as possible.  This will assist in ensuring that you get the right information that is relevant to your business in relation to your supply chain.

The Economic Development department within Council are also here to support all local businesses, offering a comprehensive range of free business support programmes. Please get in touch with the team by visiting [www](http://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/businesss).antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk or by email business@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk or by texting the Business Support Helpline on 80039