

Product Safety

The Queensland Office of Fair Trading (OFT) administers mandatory standards and bans under the national product safety system. Products include:

- consumer goods, which are intended to be or are likely to be for personal, domestic or household use.
- product-related services such as installation, maintenance, repair, cleaning, assembly or delivery of consumer goods.

All traders in the chain of supply, including retailers, importers, wholesalers, internet traders and market stall-holders, have an obligation to take steps to ensure that stocks of the products covered by these standards comply with the mandatory requirements. Suppliers should ensure any compliance statement made on products, packaging or promotional material is correct.

OFT inspectors regularly check compliance with product bans and mandatory safety and labelling standards. A list of standards and bans is attached.

You can access further information on the Product Safety Australia (PSA) website www.productsafety.gov.au.

The PSA website provides:

- links to the actual mandatory standard documents which provide full details of all requirements of a mandatory standard <http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/970773>
- information on all current interim and permanent bans <http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/970715>
- links to supplier guides and bulletins (where available) on key mandatory standards
- answers to frequently asked questions for mandatory standards.

Interim bans

Interim bans may be made by a state or territory Minister or the Commonwealth Minister. Their duration may be 60–120 days.

Penalties

Supplying products that do not comply with a mandatory standard or ban is an offence under the Australian Consumer Law.

Fines for non-compliance of goods supplied (or offer to supply) that do not comply with prescribed safety standards and bans are:

Court Action

- up to \$1.1 million for companies
- up to \$220,000 for individuals

OFT also has the power to issue infringement notices for incidents of non-compliance with prescribed safety and information standards and bans. The penalties are:

Penalty Notice

- \$2040 per breach for individuals
- \$10 200 per breach for non listed companies
- \$102 000 per breach for listed corporations

More information

Further information or clarification in relation to particular bans or standards contact the Office of Fair Trading's Product Safety Unit, by email safety@justice.qld.gov.au or telephone (07) 3008 5979.