



## Healthy Products, Healthy Children Ordinance

### What is the Healthy Products, Healthy Children Ordinance?

In April 2007 City and County of San Francisco adopted the Healthy Products, Healthy Children Ordinance. This ordinance prohibits the manufacture, sale and distribution of toys, childcare products and child feeding products made with chemicals called phthalates, within the City and County of San Francisco. This ordinance covers all toys and children's products capable of being placed in a child's mouth. Bath toys, teethingers, soft rattles, and squeeze toys like rubber duckies are examples of the types of products which may contain phthalates and which are covered by this ordinance.

### What are phthalates?

Phthalates are chemical compounds that are used as plasticizers or substances added to plastics to increase their softness and flexibility. Studies indicate that exposure to phthalates can cause reproductive or developmental harm. Since phthalates do not bind to the plastic and could be released from a toy when chewed or sucked, young children may be more likely to be exposed and suffer ill effects from these chemicals than older children or adults.

### Where are these chemicals found?

Phthalates are most commonly found in plastic products made out of polyvinylchloride (PVC). Almost all soft plastic toys for infants and toddlers are made of PVC. There are other types of softer plastics that do not contain plasticizers, such as ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

### What phthalates are covered in the ordinance?

The phthalates banned by the ordinance are di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (**DEHP**), di-butyl phthalate (**DBP**), benzyl butyl phthalate (**BBP**), diisononyl phthalate (**DINP**), diisodecyl phthalate (**DIDP**) and di-n-octyl phthalate (**DNOP**).

### What have other governments done?

The European Union (EU) conducted extensive risk assessments of the phthalates named in the Healthy Products Healthy Children ordinance and in 1999 banned these six phthalates from children's products. Also, in 1998 the Canadian government released a health advisory requesting the removal of toys containing DINP and DEHP. Soft vinyl products designed to be sucked or chewed that contained DINP were removed from sale and parents were advised to dispose of them.

### How does this affect you?

All San Francisco retailers that sell toys, childcare products and child feeding products are affected by the Healthy Products Healthy Children Ordinance and will be required to only stock children's products free of the six phthalates covered by the ordinance. Because most products do not require labels to identify whether they contain phthalates, it is difficult for retailers and consumers to identify what products contain phthalates. Over the next 12 months, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) and the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) will develop and publicize a list of products containing the six phthalates to assist the retailers in complying with the ordinance.

## What can you do?

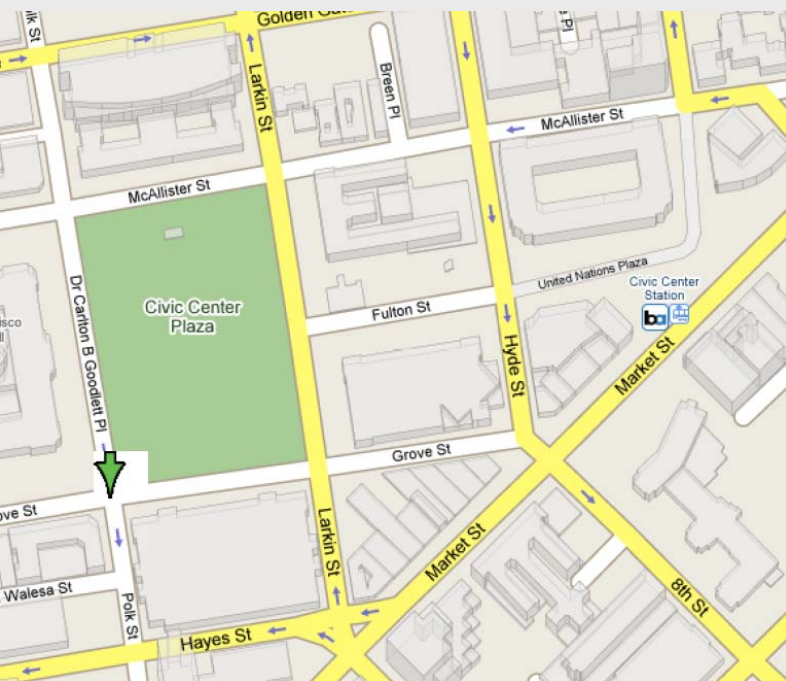
DPH and SFE will hold a series of meetings to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide input into the implementation of the Healthy Products Healthy Children Ordinance. The first meeting will be held in August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. For the complete text of the ordinance, please visit [http://www.sfdph.org/phes/child\\_toys.htm](http://www.sfdph.org/phes/child_toys.htm) or call (415) 734.1359.

We invite you to:

- ✓ Be a part of the stakeholder group. Anyone interested in the ordinance implementation is invited, including retailers, consumers, and interest groups.
- ✓ Attend stakeholder meetings. These meetings will assist you in understanding the requirements and timeline of the ban. Participation in the meetings will also allow you to provide input, voice your concerns, and get answers to your questions.
- ✓ Ask your toy distributor to help you identify children's products without phthalates.
- ✓ If you are a retailer, talk to your customers and let them know why certain products are being added or removed and help them understand why this is beneficial to their children.

## ATTEND THE FIRST STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Come learn more about the Healthy Products Healthy Children Ordinance and how it affects your business. Being a member of the stakeholder group will help you be prepared for the new ordinance.



**WHEN:** Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am – 12 pm

**WHERE:** Room 220, 101 Grove St, San Francisco.

**RSVP:** by **Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** @

[Karen.Andrade@sfgov.org](mailto:Karen.Andrade@sfgov.org) or (415) 734.1359

**Transit:** Take the MUNI to Civic Center station, walk toward Grove St & Polk St. MUNI buses 21, 9, 49 and 47 service the area.

**Bike Parking:** Bike rack available across the street from City Hall (on Goodlett Pl)

**Car Parking:** Civic Center Garage, entrance on McAllister, past Larkin