

Feds tighten safety standards on tiny high-powered magnets that have injured kids

September 8 2022



New federal safety standards announced Wednesday aim to keep kids

and teens safe from serious or life-threatening injuries from accidental swallowing of high-powered magnets.

The new standards require that certain products with loose or separable magnets contain only those that are weak or too large to swallow.

The aim is to reduce injuries that can occur when swallowed magnets attract to each other inside the body. The [risks](#) include perforations, twisting and/or blockage of the intestines, infection, [blood poisoning](#) and even death.

Under the new standards, magnets that fit in a small parts cylinder must have a [flux index](#) of less than $50 \text{ kG}^2 \text{ mm}^2$. Flux index is a measure of magnetic strength.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted Wednesday to approve [the new standards](#).

They apply to [consumer products](#) designed, marketed or intended to be used for entertainment, jewelry, mental stimulation and stress relief that contain one or more loose or separable magnets.

The rule does not apply to products sold and/or distributed solely to educators, researchers, professionals and/or commercial users exclusively for educational, research, professional, commercial and/or industrial purposes. It also doesn't apply to toys for kids under age 14 because the CPSC already has a mandatory toy standard for those.

The change goes into effect 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register. It will affect products manufactured after that date.

Emergency departments treated an estimated 26,600 cases of magnet ingestion between 2010 and last year, with cases rising each year since

2018, according to the CPSC. Seven deaths involving ingestion of hazardous magnets have occurred—two outside the United States. Most probably involved magnet sets, according to the CPSC.

Injuries can occur when [kids](#) ingest magnets, for example to mimic mouth piercings.

In 2014, the CPSC established a mandatory federal standard for magnet sets. An [appeals court](#) overturned that standard two years later and magnet ingestions and injuries rose after that, according to the CPSC.

More information: The American Academy of Pediatrics has more on [children and magnet safety](#).

Copyright © 2022 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Feds tighten safety standards on tiny high-powered magnets that have injured kids (2022, September 8) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-09-feds-tighten-safety-standards-tiny.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--