Health and Safety Executive

John Rowe

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Dear Chief Executive,

Asbestos contamination in sand-based craft materials and toys

I am writing to draw your attention to recent product recalls issued by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), which have identified asbestos contamination in a number of sand-based craft materials and toys. (There have been no product recalls relating to play pit sand.)

Sand-based craft materials and toys may be purchased for use in schools and educational establishments. Local authorities, your procurement teams and schools therefore have an important role in ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to provide assurance that these products are safe. In particular, you should:

- *Seek assurance from suppliers that they have effective arrangements in place to manage the risk of asbestos contamination.*
- *Ensure supplier assurance arrangements are robust, including oversight of raw material sourcing, manufacturing controls and product assurance processes.*
- *Recognise that testing alone is not sufficient. While suppliers may undertake sampling and testing for asbestos, the limitations of sampling mean that testing should form only one part of a wider supply-chain assurance approach.*

Where products subject to an OPSS recall have been supplied directly to schools or educational establishments, suppliers should notify affected customers and support them through the recall process. Additionally you should:

- *Monitor OPSS product recall notices and ensure arrangements are in place to identify affected products promptly.*
- *Ensure schools are informed without delay where a recalled product has been supplied or may be in use by them.*
- *Work with suppliers to ensure affected products are removed, returned or otherwise dealt with appropriately.*

Further detail, including a list of recalled products can be accessed here **Asbestos in consumer products - GOV.UK**

We would be grateful if you could ensure that this information is brought to the attention of those responsible for procurement, product safety and educational settings within your authority. We appreciate your support in ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to protect local children, young people and staff.

Yours sincerely,

John Rowe

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