



**INDEPENDENT CONSUMER AND  
COMPETITION COMMISSION**

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**Media & Resource Centre**

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**Media Release**

**ICCC: Certain baby dummies, soothers and pacifiers unsafe**

The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission is proposing to ban certain baby dummies, soothers and pacifiers that do not meet product safety requirements.

ICCC Commissioner Dr Billy Manoka said: "Certain baby dummies, soothers and pacifiers create a risk of choking, strangulation, injury or death, particularly for children under three years old. At this age children have not yet developed the reflex action to cough up objects that lodge in their throats or avoid sharp pointed objects."

The Commission is also urging businesses and individuals not to supply any goods that are used as baby pacifiers if they have decals; stickers or ornaments such as crystals, beads or "bling" that can detach and form small parts which can be easily swallowed.

Goods which are contained in packs that include any pin, ribbon, string, cord, chain, twine, leather, yarn or any other means of attachment are also possibly dangerous.

Some of the main requirements that have been set for dummies, soothers and pacifiers are as follows:

- The product must be made of non-toxic material; should not contain sharp edges, or points; must be of proper and sound construction so that no part of the product could come off when in use; must be supplied in a closed pack with a shield of minimum width of 55mm; and must have good ventilation.
- The pack must allow the enclosed product to be seen clearly; must show the name and address of details of the manufacturer/distributor and country of manufacture;

must contain the safety WARNING signs; must have proper instructions; and also a unique batch number to facilitate recalls if the need arises.

The ICCC is calling on businesses and individuals supplying such products to contact the Commission and notify it if they wish to hold a conference to discuss the proposed banning of these products.

Authorised by

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Elastus Geroro

Acting CEO

## **Background**

The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC) is responsible for administering the ICCC Act as well as a number of other legislation. The law is designed to enhance the welfare of the people of PNG by encouraging competition, fair trading and efficiency in business as well as preventing anti-competitive behaviour.

The ICCC has specific wide ranging powers in relation to consumer product safety. It takes its responsibility under these provisions seriously and will take immediate action when it becomes aware of a product that may cause harm or injury to the health or safety of consumers.

Its powers include:

- warning consumers of the possible danger of particular products and conducting an assessment of the risks involved;
- recommending to the Minister to declare a standard that suppliers of the product must meet or for the provision of information in relation to such a product;
- issuing interim bans where the Commission is of the view that such products are unsafe; and there is imminent danger;
- issuing of permanent bans on unsafe goods; and

- requiring compulsory recall of products that are unsafe, or not compliant with a product or information standard.

The Act provides that the Commission will on request hold a conference with any supplier who may be adversely affected by its actions.

If a conference is requested the Commission must decide as soon as practicable after the conference whether the notice is to remain in force, be varied, or be revoked (and give a copy of the notice to each supplier at the conference).