



25 July 2023

(23-5072)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

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| 1. Notifying Member: <u>AUSTRALIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2): |
| 2. Agency responsible: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Australian WTO TBT Enquiry Point Office of Global Trade Negotiations Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Canberra ACT 0221 tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au +61 2 6261 1111 |
| 3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], 3.2 [], 7.2 [], other: |
| 4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): The ACCC has recommended the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Stephen Jones MP, make an information standard to cover the following products: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• chests of drawers, cabinets, and wardrobes, with a height above 500mm• bookcases with a height above 600mm• hall tables, display cabinets, buffets and sideboards, with a height above 500mm entertainment units of any height. |
| 5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: <i>Consumer Goods (Toppling Furniture) Information Standard 2023; (6 page(s), in English)</i> |
| 6. Description of content: The proposed <i>Consumer Goods (Toppling Furniture) Information Standard 2023</i> contains requirements for certain freestanding storage furniture products to include safety information about the hazards associated with furniture toppling and how to reduce the likelihood of an incident by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• affixing a permanent warning label to the furniture• providing safety information in the manual and/or assembly instructions highlighting the risk of toppling and the importance of anchoring, and• providing warnings about toppling hazards at point of sale in-store and online. |

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| 7. | <p>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</p> <p>In Australia, on average one death and over 900 injuries requiring medical attention are caused every year by toppling furniture. The ACCC is aware of 28 fatalities between 2000 and 2022 attributed to toppling furniture. Of these, 17 involved children aged 4 years and under, and another 4 fatalities involved older Australians (aged 60 years or older).</p> <p>Freestanding storage furniture such as chests of drawers, cupboards, wardrobes and bookcases pose the greatest risk of toppling over and causing injury or death.</p> <p>The objective of the mandatory information standard is to reduce the risk of serious injury or death.</p> <p>The ACCC considers a mandatory information standard will improve safety outcomes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educating consumers on risks, safe furniture use, and effective anchoring strategies through affixed permanent warning labels • providing mandatory instore and online warnings such as hang tags and placards to raise awareness at point of sale, and • supporting information equity for diverse communities with the use of clear graphic warnings and plain English. <p>Consumer information, labelling; Prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection; Protection of human health or safety</p> |
| 8. | <p>Relevant documents:</p> <p>Exposure Draft Instrument – <i>Consumer Goods (Topping Furniture) Information Standard 2023</i>.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Proposed date of adoption: The proposed information standard would be adopted the day after it is registered.</p> <p>Proposed date of entry into force: The proposed information standard would provide a transitional period (12 months) to allow suppliers to move to the new requirements. During the transitional period suppliers may choose to comply with the new requirements in advance of their coming into force.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Final date for comments: 60 days from notification</p> |
| 11. | <p>Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:</p> <p>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Email: tbt.enquiry@dfat.gov.au https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2023/TBT/AUS/23_11278_00_e.pdf</p> |