



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2017/SOM3/SCSC/JRAC/014

Agenda Item: 6d

Discussion Paper on Children's Toys Using LiPo Batteries

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: New Zealand



**22nd Joint Regulatory Advisory Committee on
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Meeting
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
20 August 2017**

Children's Toys and LiPo batteries

Electrically powered toys

In the past there have been very few fires involving children's toys or information technology equipment being used by children or young persons.

However in recent times a significant number of fires have occurred where LiPo (lithium-ion polymer) batteries have been implicated.

The fires have occurred both during charging and while the toy has been not in use, while some have been attributed to using the wrong charger.

This significant safety risk shift is more alarming given that most parents would expect a toy to be safe and not require the child to be supervised while using it. Children do not exercise judgement of danger, nor do they necessarily understand or react to warnings of risk.

The International toy safety standard has been updated and has provisions added to deal with batteries; however the changes made are based on known failures.

As battery storage technology advances there is an increasing risk, not only of fire, but burns and mechanical injury, posing the question as to whether limits should be placed on the design of toys.

New Zealand is interested to know if other economies are concerned about the electrical safety of toys, the adequacy of the relevant standard, and whether it would be useful for member economies to collect incident information for a discussion at the next JRAC meeting.

New Zealand is also interested in whether any member economies are considering making the toys subject to increased regulatory control, noting that New Zealand has made the toys subject to our medium risk (SDoC and supporting test report) category.