



# Children's Safe Products Reporting Rule

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## Product Components

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This publication explains what a product component is for the reporting requirement under the Children's Safe Products Act (CSPA). We will clarify:

01

**What is CSPA?**

02

**What is a product component?**

03

**What is a CSPA reportable component?**

04

**Frequently asked questions**



# 01

## What is CSPA?



The Children's Safe Products Act<sup>1</sup> (or CSPA) limits the presence of priority toxic chemicals<sup>2</sup> in children's products. The limits are for lead, cadmium, six phthalates, and five flame retardants. Children's products that exceed CSPA restriction limits cannot be sold or offered for sale in Washington.

Additionally, CSPA requires manufacturers to report the presence and use of chemicals of high concern to children<sup>3</sup> in their children's products offered for sale in the state.

The Washington Children's Safe Product Act, RCW 70A.430.010, defines children's products as any of these categories:



**1. Toys**



**2. Children's cosmetics**



**3. Children's jewelry**



**4. Items for teething and sucking**



**5. Clothing and footwear**



**6. Car seats**



**7. Items for feeding**



**8. Items for relaxation or to facilitate sleep**

The law also defines what is not a children's product. For example, video toys, bicycles, certain sporting equipment, and chemistry sets are not children's products under CSPA.

## Who needs to report?

Manufacturers<sup>4</sup> need to report. The term “manufacturer” is defined to include the producer, importer, and domestic distributor of the product. However, it is only necessary that one entity or person report a particular children’s product. The hierarchy for determining who is the manufacturer responsible for reporting can be found in Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) 173-334-090.

A manufacturer might not knowingly add a chemical of high concern for children (CHCC) to their product components, but they are legally responsible for knowing and reporting the amount of CHCCs in their products sold or offered for sale in Washington.<sup>5</sup> Manufacturers should work with their suppliers or a product testing laboratory to determine the presence of CHCCs in their product components. We require companies to share information on chemicals of concern to promote transparency across the supply chain.

**Note:** Review our list of Chemicals of High Concern to Children for information on which chemicals are both restricted and reportable under CSPA.

## What information should a manufacturer include in a report?

Manufacturers must gather a combination of product information (known as a function set) when reporting on products that contain a CHCC. This information includes:

- The product category.<sup>6</sup>
- The product component.
- The chemical or CHCC concentration.
- The chemical function.

This publication focuses on the second reporting requirement in the list above: product components.



# 02

## What is a product component?



A product component<sup>7</sup> is a uniquely identifiable material or coating (including ink or dye) that is often just one part of a finished children's product. For example, a child's sweater may include several components, including the woven fabric, trim fabric, and buttons.

## Types of product components

Based on the definition of product component and consultation with product testing laboratories, Ecology developed the following choices for component reporting:



**Bio-based materials** (animal or plant based)



**Synthetic polymers** (synthetic rubber, plastics, foams, etc.)



**Metals** (including alloys)



**Glass, ceramic, and siliceous material**



**Surface coatings** (paints, plating, waterproofing, etc.)



**Homogenous mixtures** (gels, creams, powders, liquids, adhesives, and synthetic fragrances)



**Inks, dyes, and pigments**



**Textiles** (synthetic fibers and blends)

## Example of components in consumer products

A manufacturer makes a children's jacket. The jacket's outer material is made of a synthetic polymer. It has metal snaps with painted buttons, an inner liner, and a tag. This product contains at least five components:





# 03

## What is a CSPA reportable component?



You may not need to report on all components in your children's product. Follow the guidelines below to help you determine whether your component is reportable:

- Report the highest amount of each chemical of high concern for children (CHCC) found in a product component in each product category. You can report in ranges rather than the exact amount, based either on test results or manufacturing knowledge.
- If the CHCC is present as a contaminant,<sup>8</sup> Report any amount above 100 parts per million (ppm), unless you have a manufacturing control program in place and exercise due diligence<sup>9</sup> to minimize the level of the contaminant.
- If the CHCC is intentionally added,<sup>10</sup> Report any amount above the practical quantitation limit<sup>11</sup> (PQL). You can use the table on our Children's Safe Products Act reporting webpage<sup>12</sup> to help you determine target level PQLs.

If we look at the children's jacket again, we see that only some of the components are reportable, as outlined in the table below:

Part of Children's Jacket	Component	CHCC	Chemical Function	Concentration	Reportable?
Inner lining	Textile	Antimony	No function, contaminant	283 ppm	<b>Yes.</b> CHCC is present as contaminant above 100 PPM with no due diligence to minimize
Tag	Textile	None	None	None	<b>No.</b> There is no CHCC present.
Snap	Metal	None	None	None	<b>No.</b> There is no CHCC present.
Paint on button	Surface coating	Cobalt	Intentionally added as colorant	53 ppm	<b>Yes.</b> This CHCC was intentionally added and is above the PQL.
Outer material	Synthetic polymer	Di-n-butyl phthalate (DBP)	No function, contaminant	45 ppm	<b>No.</b> CHCC is present as contaminant below 100 ppm.



**Inner lining**  
(textile)



**Buttons**  
(surface coating)



**Snap**  
(metals)



**Tag**  
(textile)



**Outer material**  
(synthetic polymer)





# 04

## Frequently asked questions



In this section, we will answer frequently asked questions about component reporting requirements, including how to determine which components to report on.

## What if my product category has multiple components of the same material that contain the same CHCC?

If the product component is constructed from same material, report only the highest concentration of chemical of high concern for children (CHCC) for that product category. You do not need to report on all concentrations of a CHCC in that component material.

For example, a company might produce over 100 different products in the plush animal category. Each plush animal is manufactured using a plush synthetic polymer fabric. This synthetic polymer contains some amount of antimony, a CHCC.

You determine that one type of your plush dolls has antimony levels between 100 and 500 ppm in the synthetic polymer components, while another has a concentration between 500 and 1,000 ppm. The third type of plush doll has concentrations between 1,000 and 5,000 ppm. You should report the concentration found in the third plush doll since it is the component with the highest concentration range.

Product Category	Component	Chemical	Chemical Function	Concentration Category	Reportable?
Dolls/Soft Toys	Synthetic polymer	Antimony	No function (contaminant)	Equal to or greater than 100 but less than 500 ppm	<b>No</b> , not the highest concentration.
Dolls/Soft Toys	Synthetic polymer	Antimony	No function (contaminant)	Equal to or greater than 500 but less than 1,000 ppm	<b>No</b> , not the highest concentration.
Dolls/Soft Toys	Synthetic polymer	Antimony	No function (contaminant)	Equal to or greater than 1,000 but less than 5,000 ppm	<b>Yes</b> , the highest concentration.

No, not the highest

No, not the highest

Yes, the highest

Report it!



## What if the same CHCC is in several different component materials?

If the product components are constructed from different materials, you should report the CHCC in each material. For example, a manufacturer makes 30 types of children's products in the "boots" category. These boots are made up of three different reportable component materials:

1. Synthetic polymers
2. Surface coatings
3. Textiles

Toluene, a CHCC, is present at varying concentrations in each of these component materials. The manufacturer must report on the presence of toluene in each of these components (synthetic polymers, surface coatings, and textiles).

Product Category	Component	Chemical	Chemical Function	Concentration Category	Reportable?
Boots	Synthetic Polymers	Toluene	Solvent	Equal to or greater than 100 but less than 500 ppm	<b>Yes</b>
Boots	Surface coatings	Toluene	Solvent	Equal to or greater than 500 but less than 1,000 ppm	<b>Yes</b>
Boots	Textiles	Toluene	Solvent	Equal to or greater than 100 but less than 500 ppm	<b>Yes</b>



✓  
Synthetic  
polymers

✓  
Surface  
coatings

✓  
Textiles

## Some of the component materials in my product are hard to separate. How should I report?

If product components are not uniquely identifiable or are unrealistic to separate, you do not need to report each as a separate component. We've provided some examples below:

- The **sole of a shoe** consists of rubber, plastic, and an adhesive. Since you cannot separate these three components, **you can report the sole as one component (synthetic polymer).**
- A child's **automobile safety seat's** fabric has a multi-color print. You cannot separate this fabric based on color. **You can report the material as one component (textiles).**
- A **metal toy** has two layers of paint on top of each other as a decoration. It is unrealistic to separate these two paint layers. **You can report the paint as one component (paint).**
- An **action figure** has a small spot of paint as eye color. Obtaining a large enough sample size of the paint for testing is unreasonable. **You can report the small spot of paint as one component (paint).**

Many children's cosmetic products, like lotions, hair gels, and nail polish, are other examples of component mixtures that are difficult or impossible to separate. You should report these types of products as one component: homogenous materials.

**Rubber, plastic,  
and adhesive.**



**Report the  
sole as one  
component  
(synthetic  
polymer)**



**Multi-color  
print fabric.**



**Report the  
material as one  
component  
(textiles).**



**Two layers of  
paint on top of  
each other.**



**You can report  
the paint as  
one component  
(paint).**



**A small spot  
of paint as eye  
color.**



**The small spot  
of paint is not  
a separate  
component.**



## How do I know what components in my product are “uniquely identifiable”?

If it is realistic and reasonable to separate components, these are “uniquely identifiable” and considered separate reportable components. Below are some examples:

- The paint on the metal component of a child’s necklace pendant can easily be chipped off. **The paint is a separate component from the metal component.**
- A shirt has stripes wide enough to cut apart. **These two differently colored fabrics may be separate textile components.**
- A sippy cup has a blue cup and yellow lid. **These two differently colored plastic pieces are separate components.**
- A hair gel contains glitter. **The homogenous gel mixture and the glitter are separate components.**

**Paint on metal necklace pendant**



The paint is a separate component from the metal component.



**Multi-color print fabric.**



These two differently-colored fabrics may be separate textile components.



**Two differently colored plastic pieces.**



These two differently-colored plastic pieces are separate components.



**A hair gel contains glitter.**



The homogenous gel mixture and the glitter are separate components.



**My product has a tag. Is this a component of the product?**

If a tag is not easily removable and is expected to be attached when the product is in use, it is a product component. For example, a tag might be stitched to a child's jacket and is not removable.



In comparison, a sticky tag can be removed before use or wear and is not considered a product component.



Sticky tag  
can be  
removed.



Not a product  
component

**If there is paint on top of plastic or metal, does the paint qualify as a separate component?**

Yes, if the paint on top of the plastic or metal can be reasonably separated by scraping it off, it qualifies as a separate component. In this toy car example, the metal frame portion of the toy is one component and the paint that coats the metal is another component.



Paint can be scraped off



The paint is a separate component.

### **Do I need to report on “internal” components?**

You are NOT required to report on an “internal component” as defined in WAC 173-334-040. An internal component is part of a children’s product that would not come into direct contact with the child’s skin or mouth during normal use. If there is a reasonable barrier (like a hard plastic box) to prevent exposure to a child, you do not need to report on that component.

**Note:** The internal component exemption is only for reporting requirements.



Hard plastic box



Do not need to report the contents inside the plastic box

### **What qualifies as an internal component?**

Just because a component material in a children's product is covered by another material, it does not necessarily qualify it as an "internal component."

For example, a children's jacket may contain polyester fill; however, this polyester fill is **not** considered an internal component. Under reasonable conditions of use, the jacket fabric could tear and release the fill. This means it is possible that the fill could come into direct contact with a child's skin or mouth. Also, normal washing could release chemicals from the inner filling to other areas of the clothing.

In comparison, the battery compartment inside a toy may be considered an internal component. Since these components are often enclosed in hard plastic, it is less likely that a child would contact this area through normal use of the toy.

A children's jacket has polyester fill.



The jacket fabric could tear, releasing the filling.



Not an internal component

A toy's battery compartment is enclosed in hard plastic that requires a tool to open.



It is less likely that a child would contact the batteries through normal use of the toy.



An internal component.

## Learn more

Do you have more questions about children's product component reporting? We are available to evaluate specific situations.

Please send your inquiry with photo(s), if appropriate, to: [cspareporting@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cspareporting@ecy.wa.gov).

### Resources:

- [Children's Safe Product Act](#)<sup>13</sup>
- [Children's Safe Products Reporting Rule](#)<sup>14</sup>
- [Who needs to report?](#)<sup>15</sup>
- [Join our CPSA email list](#)<sup>16</sup> to receive updates and reminders for Children's Safe Product Act reporting

## Endnotes

- 1 [app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.430](http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.430)
- 2 [ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-toxic-chemicals](http://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-toxic-chemicals)
- 3 [ecology.wa.gov/HighConcernChemicals](http://ecology.wa.gov/HighConcernChemicals)
- 4 [app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.430.010](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.430.010)
- 5 Chapter 70A.430 RCW
- 6 "Product category" means the "brick" level of the GS1 Global Product Classification standard, which identifies products that serve a common purpose, are of a similar form and material, and share the same set of category attributes (WAC 173-334-040).
- 7 Definition of product component available in WAC 173-334-04.
- 8 [app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-334-040](http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-334-040)
- 9 [ecology.wa.gov/Asset-Collections/Doc-Assets/Regulations-Permits/Reporting-requirements/Reporting-for-Children-s-Safe-Products-Act/Children-s-Safe-Products-Act-Reporting-Contaminant](http://ecology.wa.gov/Asset-Collections/Doc-Assets/Regulations-Permits/Reporting-requirements/Reporting-for-Children-s-Safe-Products-Act/Children-s-Safe-Products-Act-Reporting-Contaminant)
- 10 [app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-334-040](http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-334-040)
- 11 [apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?dispo=true&cite=173-334&full=true#173-334-040](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?dispo=true&cite=173-334&full=true#173-334-040)
- 12 [ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/reporting-requirements/childrens-safe-products-act-reporting](http://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/reporting-requirements/childrens-safe-products-act-reporting)
- 13 [app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.430](http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=70A.430)
- 14 [apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-334](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-334)
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