Ecolabel is the “Green Light” for Children's Health

◇ **Ecolabel Standards for Children’s Goods (Stationery and Toys) to Protect Children's Health from Harmful Substances**

◇ **Regulatory Standards for Harmful Substances, including Contactants and Endocrine Disruptors, Considering the Effect of Exposure to Children**

□ **Ecolabel standards** have been established to protect **children's health** from harmful substances contained in children’s goods, such as stationery and toys.

□ On 28th March, Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (KEITI, President Seung-joon Yoon) announced that it had **established and made a notification of the ecolabel standards** which set forth **the restrictions on the use of harmful substances** in children’s goods and **the standard for the photobiological safety of LEDs for toys.**

○ As children tend to bite or suck on goods, they are more likely **to be exposed to harmful substances** compared to adults, and they are also more susceptible to even a small amount of harmful substances. For this reason, there have been opinions on the necessity of managing children’s goods more strictly.

○ Accordingly, last year KEITI began to **collect opinions from all walks of life** including stakeholders, and after expert meetings, it has established the ecolabel standards. (Ministry of Environment Notification No. 2013-23, Feb. 25, 2013)

□ These standards are aimed to investigate the impact of exposure of children to harmful substances, and allow only products that **meet all the environmental and quality standards** to receive the ecolabel certification.

○ It applies stricter standards for harmful substances compared to 「the KC Safety Criteria*」, and in particular, it is more practicable and applicable with its specific safety standards set for each material of products.

※ The standard used to verify the safety of a product of manufacturers or importers in accordance with 「the Quality Management and Safety Control of Industrial Products Act」. (This standard is run by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards.)

□ According to these standards, **in order to acquire the Ecolabel, all children's goods** should not contain any fragrance and minimize the content of harmful substances estimated to be an endocrine disruptor (ED).

- ○ The use of **fluorescent whitening agents and fragrance,** which may cause allergies and asthma in children, is completely prohibited.
- ○ The standards also limit the residue tolerance of **octylphenol, nonylphenol, octylphenolethoxylate, and nonylphenolethoxylate**, which may be contained, for example, in the fiber of a rag doll, and cause endocrine disruption, to a sum of 100 mg/kg.
- ○ The use of **phthalate plasticizers**, which are used to make synthetic resins flexible, is also limited to 0.1 % of the weight of the product.
- ○ When it comes to LEDs for toys, the safety criteria for **UV and blue light** have also been newly established to minimize irritation to the eyes and skin of children.
- ○ In addition, new standards for the rate of packing space and the frequency of packing have also been established to enable easier **recycling and save resources**.

□ A person from KEITI said, "The new standards are meaningful in that they present selection criteria to consumers who want to buy **safer products**. We will expand safety standards for products that affect the **health of children**."

□ Attachment: A Summary of the Certification Standards for Stationery and Toys

<Attachment> A Summary of the Certification Standards for Stationery and Toys

Class	Stationery	Toys
Scope	Materials for writing, office supplies, art supplies, etc.	Products that children younger than 14 use for their play
Envir. Criteria	**1. Limit and prohibition of the use of harmful substances** - Do not use substances under H code specified in UN GHS*, which may cause cancer, mutagenicity and reproduction toxicity. - Do not use fluorescent whitening agents, fragrance, or harmful dyes - (Synthetic resins and rubber) Do not use bromine charring agents or phthalate plasticizers. - (Wood) Do not use harmful preservatives. - (Paper) Do not use chlorine bleach. - (Metal) Nickel discharge of 0.5μg/cm^2 · week or less - Limit of the content of harmful substances in paint - Do not use harmful organic solvent for ink for materials for writing or correction liquid	**1. Limit and prohibition of the use of harmful substances** - Do not use substances under H code specified in UN GHS*, which may cause cancer, mutagenicity and reproduction toxicity. - Do not use fluorescent whitening agents, fragrance, nano substances, or harmful dyes. - (Synthetic resins and rubber) Do not use bromine charring agents or phthalate plasticizers. - (Rubber) Limit of the detection of harmful materials such as nitrosamine - (Fiber) Limit of the detection of harmful materials such as formaldehyde and organotin compound - (Wood) Do not use harmful preservatives. - (Paper) Do not use chlorine bleach. - (Metal) Nickel discharge of 0.5μg/cm^2 · week or less
	2. Standard for eco-friendliness of packing materials - Do not use coating that prevents the recycling of packing materials.	**2. Standard for eco-friendliness of packing materials** - Limit of the rate of packing space and the frequency of packing

Class	Stationery	Toys
	-	**3. Criteria for photobiological safety** - Criteria for UV and blue light energy of LEDs for toys
Quality Criteria	Same as the criteria for “School Supplies” specified in 「the KC Safety Criteria」	Same as the criteria for “Toys” specified in 「the KC Safety Criteria」

※ Standardization of the Classification and Expression of Chemical Materials (GHS, globally harmonized system)