

## **STANDARDS OF QUALITY**

### **SOFT TOYS AND DOLLS**

#### Materials

1. Fabrics must be durable, of high quality, easily cleaned and as filler proof as possible (i.e. stuffing should not be able to migrate through the fabric).
2. Stuffing must be new, synthetic and easily washed.
3. Threads must be of high quality, of an appropriate type and weight, and should match or enhance fabric.
4. Facial features and other ornamentation must be securely attached and of a safe design. Glued or sewn on plastic or button parts are not acceptable.
5. Plastic safety joints are the only ones considered acceptable for children's toys.

#### Technique

1. Stitching in body construction must be close, and reinforced at stress points.
2. Toys must be stuffed appropriately: a firm toy should not sag while a cuddly toy should be softer and less compactly stuffed.
3. Hair and trims must be securely attached. If hair is made from yarn, it must be stitched, not glued, to the toy.
4. Features for soft toys that are attached to the toy must be safe and securely attached. Features may be embroidered, appliquéd or painted. When applicable, thread ends should be securely fastened and not visible on the right side. Threads carried from one feature to another must not be visible from the right side.
5. Sharp points and edges are not acceptable. Wires used for framing should be turned or rounded to prevent pushing through the fabric.
6. Joints must work freely.
7. Small parts that can be removed must not be used.
8. Both clothing and body are of equal importance in a dressed doll and both must be handmade. Commercial patterns are not permitted. Purchased accessories should be kept to a minimum and should not dominate the handmade quality of the product.

9. Glue must not be used if stitching is possible.

\* Toy makers should note that standards for sewing and garment construction may also be pertinent and should be consulted.

\* Regulations: There are very specific regulations concerning the materials, construction and packaging of children's toys. In addition, certain restrictions and labelling requirements pertaining to toys and age limits do apply. Craftspeople should follow pertinent regulations from Health Canada.

\* Collector's toys and dolls: Toys designed for the purpose of being collector's items are not required to meet the safety standards necessary in the production of toys for children. They must, however, meet the standards for design, materials and technique listed above. These pieces must be clearly labelled "Collector's item: not suitable for use by young children".