



HABA USA's response to HealthyToys.org's Toy Lists:

HealthToys.org has recently announced its annual toy lists.

HABA products were listed on the "Best" Toys list for several products:

- Leaning Tower of Pisa
- Middle Eastern Blocks
- "Let's Go Shopping" Game,
- Half Dozen Eggs
- Pipapo Rattle
- Moby Rattle
- Piro Rattle

One of our products appeared on their "worst" toys list: Ball Track Set. Some media have chosen to report the inclusion of this wonderful and best-selling, award-winning toy under Most Toxic Toys and other frightening headlines. They have not bothered to ask HABA for a statement, as would be required by fair and accurate journalism. If they did, we would tell them it is important to note that there were no issues with the wood blocks in this construction set, however the issue is the ordinary glass marbles used in this set. These are the same glass marbles that have been used for centuries by children and adults alike.

Consumers would be well advised to dig deeper into the testing methodology. HealthyToys.org's site admits the "testing method" is good for screening only. Tests were performed for 30 seconds using a rapid screening XRF tool. Tests were **not** performed by independent, third party laboratories. The tests performed cannot prove migration properties of the chemicals within the toys. HABA has tried to communicate directly with HealthyToys about its misleading tests but our calls were not returned.

Furthermore HealthToys.Org site acknowledges: **"However, the detection of a chemical in a product does not necessarily mean there is direct exposure."**

Again we encourage you to not only read the "Best" and "Worst" lists but invest in the time to read all of the site information regarding the methodology. Truly educate yourself in order to make informed decisions. HABA regrets any unfounded alarm and concern these inaccurate tests are causing our customers and encourages them to contact HealthyToys to voice their frustration with the group.

HABA would also like to refer you to the Toy Industry Association in that the report from HealthyToys.org is misleading to consumers. The TIA's statement is:

TIA Response to HealthyToys.org

Toy Industry Association Statement in Response to HealthyToys.org

The Toy Industry Association finds the report from Healthytoys.org is misleading to consumers, at best. Healthytoys.org's statement fully admits the "testing method" they use is only good for screening purposes. Thus, it is not an accurate measurement of the amount of any substance, nor is it a method consistent with U.S. safety standards for toys. Further, Healthytoys.org even acknowledges their own ratings, "do not provide a measure of health risk or chemical exposure associated with any individual toy..."

Habermaass Corp. Inc. 4407 Jordan Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152

www.HABAusa.com

The truth is toys are a highly regulated industry that has been subject to even more intense scrutiny – from industry, retailers, government and consumer organizations – in the past 18 months. And, as we heard from the Consumer Product Safety Commission last month, they have significantly increased their enforcement and inspection efforts and are finding far fewer issues. **That is the real news this year.**

The Toy Industry Association and its members are committed to the health and safety of the children who play with our toys. TIA members are always working hard to ensure that toys sold in the U.S. meet or exceed all safety standards – so consumers can be confident in the safety of toys.

About TIA

TIA is the not-for-profit trade association for producers and importers of toys and youth entertainment products sold in North America, representing over 500 companies who account for approximately 85% of domestic toy sales. Toy safety is the number one priority for the toy industry. TIA has a long history of leadership in toy safety including development of the first comprehensive toy safety standard more than 30 years ago, and working with government, consumers and industry on ongoing programs to ensure safe play. For more information on toy safety, [click here](#).

About HABA

HABA USA is committed to the health and safety of the children who play with our toys. We were the first toy manufacturer in Germany to voluntarily test our toys and we will continue to try to meet and exceed the demands of not only the USA but the international toy standards as well.

For an interview with HABA USA President Lea Culliton about this issue or HABA's safety practices, please call KidStuff PR's Lisa Orman, 608-767-1102.

Habermaass Corp. Inc. 4407 Jordan Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152

www.HABAusa.com