



INDEPENDENT CONSUMER AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

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Media & Resource Centre

MRC 012

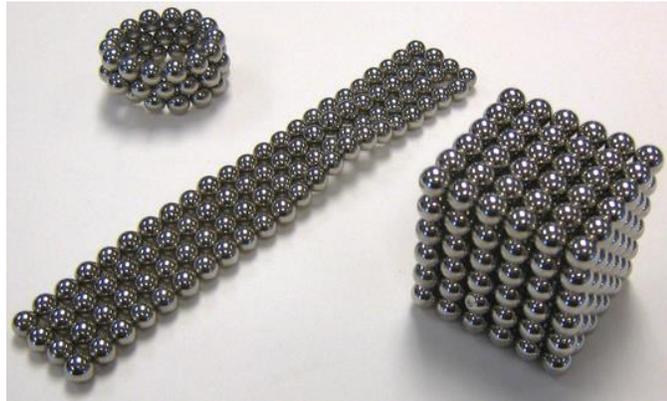
Media Release

Brochure on banned magnets produced

The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission has released a brochure on small high-powered magnets as a resource to help consumers in PNG understand the dangers associated with these products.

The brochure was produced after sale of the products was recently prohibited by the Commission.

ICCC Commissioner and CEO Dr Billy Manoka said: "High powered magnets are extremely dangerous as they can be easily swallowed and once swallowed they can cause perforation of the intestines. They are often marketed as executive toys. They are also used by teenagers as jewelry and as such can be easily swallowed. The brochure sets out the risks associated with these types of magnets."



The brochure provides background about ICCC's role in product safety and why the small high powered magnets have been banned.

Also included are frequently asked questions about the banned magnets.

Contact Dr Billy Manoka on 3252144 or email bmanoka@iccc.gov.pg for more information on the banned product.

Approved by:

Dr Billy Manoka (PhD)

Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer

Background

The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC) is responsible for administering the ICCC Act as well as a number of other pieces of legislation. The law is designed to enhance the welfare of the people of PNG by encouraging competition, fair trading and efficiency in business as well as preventing anti-competitive behaviour.

The ICCC has specific wide ranging powers in relation to consumer product safety. It takes its responsibility under these provisions seriously and will take immediate action when it becomes aware of a product that can affect the health or safety of consumers.

Its powers include:

- warning consumers of the possible danger of particular goods and conducting an assessment of the risks involved;
- recommending to the Minister to declare a standard that suppliers of the product must meet or for the provision of information in relation to such a product;
- issuing interim bans where the Commission is of the view that such goods are unsafe; and there is imminent danger;
- issuing of permanent ;bans on unsafe goods; and
- requiring compulsory recall of products that are unsafe, or not compliant with a product or information standard.

The Act provides that the Commission will on request hold a conference with any supplier who may be adversely affected by its actions.