



INDEPENDENT CONSUMER AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

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Media & Resource Centre

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Media Release

ICCC launches brochure and checklists on product safety

The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC) has released a brochure on product safety and checklists on the safety of certain consumer products.

The brochure is provided as a resource to help in the Commission's efforts to increase awareness on the part of business and consumers of the ICCC's role in reducing the impact in the marketplace of potentially harmful consumer goods. The checklists allow business and consumers to self assess if products are potentially unsafe

ICCC Commissioner and CEO Dr Billy Manoka said: "The ICCC has an important role to play in preventing potentially unsafe consumer goods from being sold in PNG. We want the public to know about products that can place them at risk of injury and even death and the production of the checklist and brochure and others in the series will enhance people's knowledge of the subject and hopefully prompt them to refrain from buying such products and to report unsafe goods to the Commission. The brochure is another milestone in the fight against dangerous goods.'

The brochure outlines ICCC's role in product safety and helps readers to understand the powers of the Commission and processes that enable the Commission to remove potentially unsafe goods.

The ICCC has also released product safety checklists on various products that can be accessed from the Commission's head office to help business and consumers assess if certain products are potentially unsafe.

To support the ICCC's efforts in product safety it has entered into Memoranda of Understanding with the National Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology (NISIT) and PNG Customs. These two agencies will reinforce the work of the ICCC in this area.

The Commissions addresses are at the end of the brochure and it encourages businesses and consumers to report to the ICCC at the given addresses products that may be dangerous.

For further information contact Dr Billy Manoka on 325 2144 or email bmanoka@iccc.gov.pg

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.