

ATA Compliance Bulletin

Convertible Tricycles versus Prams and Strollers

Introduction

Members have asked for guidance on the application of the mandatory Consumer Product Safety Standard for Prams and Strollers to Convertible Tricycles.

The Regulation was recently amended to include a note identifying that the requirements in the Regulation apply to other products such as convertible tricycles that have a mode intended for the transport of children. In fact, the amendment wasn't really a change as this has always been the case. We believe that the amendment was just intended to bring more attention to the issue.

Nevertheless, the amendment has caused concern and there is some confusion about the determination of whether a product such as a convertible tricycle is intended for the transport of children. This may lead to products being recalled unnecessarily while less scrupulous suppliers do nothing.

This bulletin is intended to provide an approach for reviewing convertible tricycles to decide if they are intended to transport children or not. As always, the information has been prepared to the best of our knowledge and we can't guarantee that the regulators will see it the same way. However, a consistent documented approach will allow a more robust discussion with a regulator if the need arises and demonstrate that you have a process that can be adjusted if needed.

It should be noted that there is no problem selling convertible tricycles that can also be used as strollers in Australia. However, they must comply with the Regulation for strollers as well as the regulation for toys for children under 3.

Product Descriptions

A tricycle in its most basic form is a small three wheeled vehicle for use in play by children and has pedals powered by the child's feet. From our age grade determination guidelines, such products typically have a starting age of 2 years or higher.

Convertible tricycles typically have additional features to support younger children learning to ride and these may have starting ages of around 12 months depending on the features. Further features may be added in order to support the products use for other purposes, including as a stroller.

Features

The table below discusses the features commonly seen on convertible tricycles and how they may support the products use either as a learner tricycle or as a stroller.

Feature	Learner Tricycle	Stroller / Transportation
Handle	Basic handle to allow parental control and assistance	More robust handle to provide total control May include add-ons such as a cup/bottle holder, parental storage, etc.
Harness	A basic waist/crotch harness to prevent falls	A secure 5-point harness to ensure the child's security while being transported

Removing or disengaging pedals and or steering	Disengaging the pedals allows the child to learn to steer while being pushed by the carer. It is expected that learning to steer is the first stage of learning to ride	Disengaging both pedals and steering gives total control to the parent/carer during use as a stroller
Canopy	Basic canopy to provide sun protection during short periods of use	Robust canopy to provide sun protection during longer periods of use and weather protection in the case of rain
Seat	Basic seat for sitting while learning to ride. Low back support for stability	Higher back support for resting. May recline for comfort during trips May be reversible to support greater parental contact.
Mandatory requirements	Consumer Protection Notice No. 14 of 2003 - Consumer Product Safety Standard: Toys for children up to and including 36 months of age as amended by Consumer Protection No. 1 of 2005.	Consumer Protection Notice No 8 of 2007 - Consumer Product Safety Standard for Prams And Strollers

Approach to Product Categorisation

1. Product evaluations should be documented and held in the item's compliance folder along with test reports and other information related to safety and compliance.
2. The evaluation should list each additional feature of the product over and above that of a basic tricycle and realistically identify the purpose of the feature with respect to either learning to ride or transporting the child.

The table above could be used as a starting point but may not include all possible features. The principle for review of additional features remains the same, i.e. for a learner tricycle, it should be very clear how the addition would support the process of learning to ride rather than that of a parent or carer transporting the child from one location to another.

3. The packaging, instructions and marketing material should be reviewed to ensure that messaging is consistent with the features of the product

A convertible tricycle should include information that it is not safe to be used as a transportation device and mustn't be used on or near the road.

4. Compliance requirements should be determined in accordance with the evaluation, e.g. if the product contains features of both products, then it should meet the requirements of both.