

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000754/26
to the Commission
Manuela Ripa (PPE)
(23 February 2026)**

Subject: Asbestos in imported children's play sand — protection of children and effectiveness of EU controls

According to recent reports, asbestos has been detected in children's play sand in the EU that had been imported from China. Asbestos has long been banned in the EU due to its carcinogenic effects. The fact that such a hazardous substance was detected in a product intended specifically for children raises serious questions as to the effectiveness of import controls and EU market surveillance.

Children are a particularly vulnerable consumer group. In this respect, it is crucial that hazardous products are swiftly identified, taken off the market and reported across the EU.

1. Is the Commission aware of the aforementioned cases and what information does it have on the circulation of the affected products in the Member States?
2. What specific measures have been or will be taken to remove the affected products from the market throughout the EU and to inform consumers?
3. Does the Commission consider the current import and market surveillance mechanisms to be sufficient or is it planning to take additional measures to prevent such cases in future?

Submitted: 23.2.2026

**Question for written answer E-000785/26
to the Commission
Estelle Ceulemans (S&D)
(25 February 2026)**

Subject: Asbestos in sand and play products for children — health risks and European market surveillance

Since the beginning of 2026, a number of children's play products, including coloured sand and creative kits sold online and in some Member States, have been flagged as containing asbestos fibres. Contaminated products include certain batches made by Hobbycraft and several items on Amazon. Some have already been withdrawn or recalled from national markets. Asbestos is highly carcinogenic and has been banned in new products in the EU for years. The presence of asbestos in children's products, meaning it could be handled and inhaled, raises serious public health and safety concerns.

1. Does the Commission have consolidated data on the number and nature of asbestos-containing children's products currently in circulation in the EU and the extent of the cross-border contamination?
2. What action have the European Chemicals Agency and market surveillance authorities taken or intend to take to detect, withdraw and recall the affected products, and does the Commission intend to introduce analysis methods or specific thresholds to avoid divergence between Member States?
3. What measures are planned to inform consumers and distributors, adapt RAPEX rapid alerts and labelling and prevent the import of products containing asbestos?

Submitted: 25.2.2026

**Joint answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(8 April 2026)**

The Commission is aware of reports that play sands may be contaminated with asbestos and takes this matter seriously. Such contamination can occur naturally, primarily during the extraction of raw materials. Play sands designed for children fall under the Toy Safety Directive ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission has received several notifications in the EU Safety Gate about measures taken against dangerous play sands with traces of asbestos ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02009L0048-20221205>.

⁽²⁾ See alerts SR/00653/26 and SR/00665/26 already published in Safety Gate, the EU rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products: <https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate-alerts/screen/search?resetSearch=true>.

National market surveillance authorities responsible for toy safety are actively investigating these products within the EU. In some Member States, recalls have already been issued.

The Commission is working closely and coordinating with these national authorities to ensure a consistent approach. This includes monitoring the presence of contaminated play sands in the market, exploring the most effective testing methods for detecting asbestos fibres in these products, and implementing necessary restrictive measures where required.

Under the Toy Safety Directive, all toys, including any chemicals they contain, must not pose a risk to the health or safety of children. Market surveillance authorities can take measures under the directive to withdraw and recall any toys posing a risk.

The Toy Safety Regulation ⁽³⁾ that will start applying on 1 August 2030 will strengthen the protection of children from harmful chemicals in toys and allow for additional measures to be taken against categories of toys that pose a risk to children.

Furthermore, the Commission is working on the revision of the Market Surveillance Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ to strengthen enforcement on products imported from third countries and to reinforce cooperation mechanisms between Member States to ensure more effective cross-border enforcement.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202502509.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02019R1020-20240523>.