QUALITY EXCELLENCE SERVICES

Quality Excellence Services
18 Maple Avenue, Ste. 148
Barrington, RI 02806
United States of America
+1 (401) 246-3204 · +1 (401) 252-9653
mweeden@qesisbest.com · https://QESisBest.com

STANDARDS & GUIDANCE BRIEF · UNITED STATES · MANDATORY CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD

ASTM F963-23

Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety

DOCUMENT	QES-WP-140, Rev B	DATE	November 7, 2026
ISSUED BY	ASTM International; made mandatory by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (16 CFR Part 1250)	PREPARED BY	Conner Davidson
EDITION	F963-23, mandatory since April 20, 2024	STATUS CHECKED	October 24, 2026
INDUSTRIES	Consumer Products & Toys	ONLINE	qesisbest.com/standard-astm-f963.html

IN FORCE Since March 12, 2026, Part 1250 also adds mandatory water bead requirements that go beyond section 4.40 of F963-23.

What It Covers

Mechanical and physical hazards, flammability, toxicology and heavy metals in substrates and surface coatings, labeling, and age grading for toys intended for children under 14.

Who It Applies To

Manufacturers and importers of toys sold in the United States, whose Children's Product Certificates must cite the edition in force.

Key Requirements

- Heavy elements in accessible substrates and coatings, with tests by an accepted third-party laboratory.
- Mechanical tests for small parts, sharp points and edges, magnets, projectiles, and use-and-abuse.
- Warning labels and age grading consistent with the hazards found.
- Water bead toys: the 2026 rule adds size and expansion limits beyond the standard's expanding-materials section.

What an Auditor Asks to See

- The Children's Product Certificate for a product, and the test report behind each citation.
- The age-grading rationale for a product near the 3-year or 8-year boundaries.

Where Systems Fall Short

- Certificates that still cite F963-17.
- Test reports that cover the sample, not the production material.

How QES helps. Certificate and test-plan reviews against the current standard and the 2026 water bead rule. See the gap assessment: qesisbest.com/services.html#gap-assessment · +1 (401) 246-3204 · mweeden@qesisbest.com

Sources, checked October 24, 2026. eCFR — 16 CFR Part 1250 — www.ecfr.gov/current/title-16/part-1250; Federal Register — Safety Standard for Toys: Requirements for Water Beads (December 12, 2025) — www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-12-12/pdf/2025-22643.pdf.

A summary for orientation, prepared by Quality Excellence Services. It does not reproduce or replace the standard or regulation: read the official text, which governs. Not legal advice.