
PRESS RELEASE

21 October 2026, Budapest

Dumpling warning! 89 percent of toys failed the NATCP's market surveillance inspection

Under the technical supervision of the National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection (NATCP), government authorities inspected more than two thousand 'squishy dumpling' toys. Eighty-nine per cent of the products failed to comply with the relevant regulations, whilst every single toy tested under laboratory conditions contained an ingredient that could be seriously harmful to health. The consumer protection authority has withdrawn the affected toys from sale.

Staff from the government agencies inspected a total of 2325 products across 114 retail outlets, finding some form of non-compliance in 89 percent of them (2058 items). Samples were taken from shopping centres, department stores, retail chains, toy shops and online shops alike. For products found in smaller shops, the non-compliance rate was close to 100 percent.

A significant proportion of the toys were completely lacking in unique identification markings (e.g. model number, type number), as well as manufacturer and importer details. Despite bearing the CE marking, neither an EC declaration of conformity nor technical documentation was available for 70 percent of the products examined. Nearly half of the toys inspected had a strong, pungent chemical odour. During laboratory tests carried out by the NATCA Institute of Expertise, all samples tested were found to be non-compliant: the toys contained hazardous substances that could pose a serious health risk.

As a result of a nationwide inspection carried out under the professional supervision of the NATCP, government agencies initiated a total of 108 market surveillance proceedings, during which they prohibited the sale of non-compliant products. The aim of the regulatory action is to ensure that dangerous toys do not pose a further risk to children's health and safety.

A 'squishy dumpling' is a soft, squishy stress-relief toy that resembles an Asian steamed dumpling. Parental awareness is particularly important when purchasing products of this kind. One of the most common warning signs of a dangerous toy is a strong odour reminiscent of petrol, paint thinner or general chemicals. If the outgassing or ventilation stages during manufacture are inadequate, residual solvents, monomers and other compounds may remain inside the product and then gradually be released into the air during use.

Another significant risk is that the toy may tear, causing the inner contents to escape. If the toy's wall becomes thin, cracks or bursts, the internal gel may come into contact with the child's skin, hands, eyes or surrounding surfaces, which may cause irritation, peeling or even symptoms similar to a chemical burn. Some of these toys may have a so-called flocking powder on their surface, which gives them a pleasant, matt, powdery feel. In many cases, this powder consists of microplastic-like textile fibre particles, which can become airborne during use and be inhaled by the child. This can cause throat irritation and coughing, and may even trigger more serious symptoms in children with sensitive airways or asthma.

One of the most important things to check before buying is that the product or its packaging bears the CE marking. In addition, the name and address of the manufacturer or European importer must be stated, along with the necessary warnings, such as the recommended age range and, where applicable, a warning about the risk of choking. If these are missing, it can be assumed that the product has not been placed on the market in accordance with EU regulations. It is important to emphasise, however, that the CE marking alone does not constitute independent official certification or a guarantee of safety; therefore, consumers should also pay attention to other markings on the product, the manufacturer's details and any warning labels.

It is particularly suspicious if the packaging is incomplete, difficult to understand, or does not contain any traceable manufacturer's information. The smell test is just as important: if a strong chemical odour is noticeable upon opening, it is better not to use the product, but to return it and, if necessary, report it to the relevant government agency.

Protecting children's health and safety is a top priority for the NATCP; therefore, the Authority will continue to pay close attention to market surveillance of children's toys. The results of the current nationwide investigation also clearly highlight the importance of consistent regulatory action. Under the professional guidance of government agencies, and in cooperation with partner authorities and laboratories, the NATCP will continue to take firm action against the marketing of

unsafe products. Our aim is to ensure that Hungarian families can choose from a range of safe products, and that only toys that comply with the regulations end up in children's hands.

21 October 2026

National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection