Steps Taken to Ensure a Safe Product

KidsGive takes very seriously its responsibility to produce and sell a product that is safe for children. Our products, like many others, are made in China. Because of the recent recalls, we felt it important to let consumers and retailers know more about our products and the steps we have taken to ensure that they are safe for children.

Age Grading: The recommended age for Karito Kids doll/book combinations, outfits and accessories is 6 and older. However, because we know that Karito Kids products can be appealing to children under the age of 6, they are all tested for use by children ages 3 and older, and have passed such tests. In addition, KidsGive includes a small parts warning notice that children under 3 should not play with the products because of a potential choking hazard.

Testing and Certification: KidsGive has hired one of the largest global testing and certification companies with headquarters in Switzerland to test and certify that Karito Kids products meet all U.S. toy standards. In doing so, the testing house, among many other things, each color of paint used on the dolls. Paint is used on the faces of each of the dolls to add color to the lips, cheeks, eyebrows, and around the eyes. If paint color is changed on any of the doll faces, the new color must be tested as well. Because of the recent concerns regarding toys that used paint containing high levels of lead, KidsGive has decided to randomly test additional dolls off the production line to ensure that the standards continue to be met.

Meeting and Exceeding Standards: All Karito Kids dolls are made of non-phthalate vinyl. Phthalate is a compound used to make plastics more flexible. While there has been some controversy surrounding the use of phthalates in children's toys (particularly in toys younger children may chew on), U.S. standards have not banned the use of these compounds in children's toys. The European Union, on the other hand, has banned the use of phthalates in children's toys since 1999. KidsGive made a decision from the beginning to only make non-phthalate dolls. The Karito Kids dolls therefore meet not only the U.S. standards but are also manufactured to meet the EU's more stringent standards regarding phthalates.

Choice of Manufacturer and Independent Inspections: KidsGive has chosen a very reputable manufacturer known for producing high-quality children's products for companies around the world, including in the U.S. and Europe. The principals of KidsGive visited China on several occasions to select and then work with the manufacturer. KidsGive also retains a highly trained independent inspector (again from the same global testing and inspection company) to inspect the dolls and packaging using specifications provided by KidsGive.

U.S. Regulation of Toys: Toys are one of the most highly regulated items in the U.S. In fact, the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Annual Report consistently lists toys among the safest common consumer product categories. Over 80% of the 3 billion toys in the U.S. are imported from China. The recent recalls are company- and product-specific and should not reflect on an entire country's product safety record.