

# 12 checks before a first order

A practical list for UK importers, brands and distributors buying wooden toys factory-direct. It covers the marking route, the technical file, the test programme and the freight numbers that decide whether a quotation works.

## A. Product, marking and age grading

|   | Check                              | What good looks like                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>GB, NI or EU route</b>          | Great Britain: UKCA or CE (CE recognition continued from 1 October 2024). Northern Ireland: CE, or UKNI and CE where a UK body is involved. Plan two pack versions where importer details differ. |
| 2 | <b>Importer details</b>            | The UK importer's name and address must appear on the product or its packaging. This is the importer's duty, not the factory's.                                                                   |
| 3 | <b>Marking and artwork</b>         | Confirm which route (UKCA or CE), where the mark goes, at what size, and whether it is on the product or the packaging. Check the artwork before printing.                                        |
| 4 | <b>Age grading and small parts</b> | Match the age band to the test programme. Under-three items need the small-parts check; joints, glued parts and fixings are part of that review.                                                  |

## B. Testing and the technical file

|   | Check                                    | What good looks like                                                                                                                       |
|---|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>EN 71 programme</b>                   | EN 71-1 mechanical and physical, EN 71-2 flammability, EN 71-3 migration of elements from coatings and inks.                               |
| 2 | <b>Test report in your name</b>          | The report should be issued for the exact item and material combination you will import, in your company's name where required.            |
| 3 | <b>Material and coating declarations</b> | Ask for the wood species, paint and ink declarations, and hardware specification. A change of species, paint or fixing is a new test item. |
| 4 | <b>Batch traceability</b>                | Confirm how a finished toy in the market can be tied back to the batch, the production date and the supplier.                              |

## C. Cartons, freight and the first order

|   | Check                       | What good looks like                                                                                                              |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | <b>Carton data per item</b> | Carton size, CBM, pieces per carton, gross and net weight, and units per 20 ft GP and 40 ft HQ container.                         |
| 2 | <b>Mixed-load plan</b>      | A 40 ft HQ with three carton sizes is planned at about 95% of the single-SKU figure. Confirm the exact mix before booking.        |
| 3 | <b>Retail packaging</b>     | Barcode, hang tag, warning text, inner carton and retail-ready packing. Each change can change the master carton and the freight. |
| 4 | <b>Lead time and sample</b> | Catalogue items usually dispatch in 48 hours; custom sampling is about 10 days; production is around 30 days after confirmation.  |

**Use the numbers, not the brochure.** Ask for the carton table and the test report for the item you are buying. If a supplier cannot produce both, the quotation is not finished.

## Questions to send the factory

1. Can you send the EN 71-1, -2 and -3 reports for this exact item, in our company name?
2. Which wood species, paint and hardware are in the sample, and will production use the same?
3. Which marking route are we using (UKCA or CE), where does the mark go, and can we see the pack artwork before printing?
4. What is the carton size, CBM, gross weight and units per 20 ft and 40 ft for this item?
5. What does a mixed container of these three items load to, including the gaps between cartons?
6. What is the sample lead time, the production lead time and the sample credit policy?
7. How is the batch identified, and what traceability record comes with the shipment?
8. Which documents come with the export cartons: packing list, test report, declarations, batch record?

## What we supply

Per-item EN 71 test reports, technical specification, material and coating declarations, batch identification, carton data for 47 SKUs, and retail-ready packaging to your artwork. Our own 6,000 m2 plant in Yunhe, Zhejiang, has produced wooden toys since 2007 with a team of 80.

## Red flags in a quotation

- A container quantity that does not reconcile with the carton CBM.
- A test report for a different item, a different material, or only in the factory's name.
- A UKCA or CE claim with no named importer and no technical file.
- A carton size that changes after the order is placed.
- A mixed-load figure that simply adds up single-SKU loads.

## What happens after you enquire

|                              |                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Day 0</b>                 | Send item codes or drawings, quantity per item, age band and destination market.                                 |
| <b>Within 2 working days</b> | Quotation with carton size, CBM, gross and net weight and container loading for each item.                       |
| <b>Day 3–5</b>               | Custom items: 3D drawing and indicative price. Stock items: sample dispatched within 48 hours.                   |
| <b>Around day 10</b>         | Custom sample ready for approval. Changes are confirmed in writing before testing.                               |
| <b>Around day 30</b>         | Production complete, final inspection against the approved sample, export documents prepared for your forwarder. |

### Sources and further reading

UKCA and CE for wooden toys: <https://www.china-wooden-toys.com/ukca-marking-wooden-toys/>

GOV.UK: product regulations by sector and current approaches to product marking

EN71 requirements: <https://www.china-wooden-toys.com/en71-wooden-toy-requirements/>

47-SKU carton and container data: <https://www.china-wooden-toys.com/wooden-toy-container-loading-table/>

Contact: [info@china-wooden-toys.com](mailto:info@china-wooden-toys.com) | <https://www.china-wooden-toys.com>

This checklist is practical guidance, not legal advice. Check the current GOV.UK guidance and the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011 for your own product and route to market.