



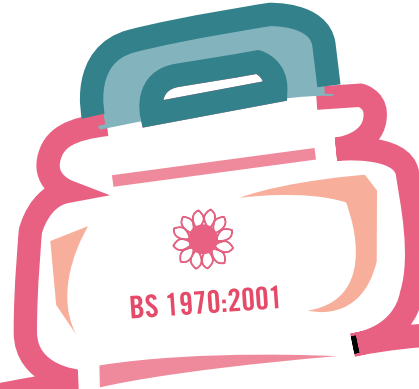
Is this product safe?

Preparation Checklist

- Provide enough copies of **The bursting rubber hot water bottle** for students to read.
- Provide enough copies of the **Product Safety FAQs** if you wish students to read them as you discuss them.

Activity

- Distribute copies of **The bursting rubber hot water bottle** to the class, have the students read it and discuss it with them using the information provided to answer the questions.
- Discuss with the students the questions and answers in the **Product Safety FAQs**.



The consumer

Although the rubber hot water bottles were not the most expensive on the market (the PVC hot water bottles cost more), consumers had the right to expect that the hot water bottle would be safe to use, and would not burst and cause them injury. Consumers must use the hot water bottles safely, eg, not use boiling water to fill it, and wrap it in a towel or cover before using it.

The manufacturers (or importers or suppliers)

The manufacturers had the responsibility to make hot water bottles that were safe to use. Importers and suppliers have the responsibility to sell safe products.

The businesses selling the hot water bottles in New Zealand

The retailers selling the hot water bottles in New Zealand have to take responsibility for the safety of the goods they sell.

The government

The government takes a responsibility for the overall safety of products. It makes laws that cover product safety.

What happened to solve the problem

Usually the businesses selling the rubber hot water bottles would recall all the rubber hot water bottles and give consumers their money back. However, the unsafe rubber hot water bottles were imported by many different suppliers and sold by many different retailers around the country. The government decided the issue was serious enough to issue a ban preventing the sale of the unsafe rubber hot water bottles. Under the ban none of the unsafe rubber hot water bottles can be sold in New Zealand. A retailer selling the banned rubber hot water bottles could be fined up to \$60,000 and companies up to \$200,000.

