

## **FM22006 - Prior Information Notice**

### **Chemical Testing of Consumer Toys**

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) was created in January 2018 to deliver consumer protection and to support business confidence, productivity and growth. We regulate a wide range of products with a focus on their safety and integrity. We work with local, national and international regulators, with consumer representatives and with businesses to deliver effective protections and to support compliance.

Our mission is to be a trusted product regulator for the UK. This means protecting people and places, enabling business to thrive and empowering consumers to make good choices. We will be a leader of good regulatory practice and a champion of local regulation.

OPSS is:

- the national regulator for all consumer products, except for vehicles, medicines and food.
- the national regulator for legal metrology, ensuring weighing and measuring instruments are accurate and reliable.

Suppliers are strongly encouraged to read the text at the following link in order to gain a full understanding of the role of the enforcement services with Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-regulation-enforcement-services>

### **Description**

The Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC and Toys (Safety) regulation 2011 requires that chemicals in toys must not jeopardise the health and safety of children when used in the intended or in a foreseeable way, bearing in mind the behaviour of children, however despite this there are numerous recent studies, concerns, and articles from across the globe regarding toxic chemicals within toys and that there are many toys made available on the market that do not meet these requirements.

Children are more vulnerable to toxins because their bodies and brains are still developing, they have a fast metabolic rate, high surface area to body weight ratio and fast growth or organs and tissues, in addition children are often more exposed as they tend to put objects into their mouth.

The scope of the project will be for toys aimed at children under 6 years of age, and those that follow the same characteristics as toys already listed on RAPEX and OECD. A total of forty (40) items will require testing for specific chemical properties, utilising data from internal screening and historic recall notices as guidance towards a focused and phased testing approach. Note, not all test areas and all chemicals will be required for each product. Where a product fails against a chemical property and specific test area it will not require further investigative chemical analysis.

Samples span a range of product categories which include:

- Cosmetic kits
- Finger paints
- Painted/ wooden/ metal toys
- Plastic toys
- Balloon/ Slime/ Putty/ Rubber toys

## Budget and Duration

This contract is expected to run from February 2022 to 31st March 2022. This is an estimate timeline which is subject to further market consultation.

Estimated budget of the requirement £50,000.00 excluding VAT for the full duration.

## Supplier Feedback

This Prior Information notice is being issued to undertake a market consultation exercise with regards to the current view of the requirement detailed above.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ("BEIS") would like to hear feedback from potential suppliers based on the following:

- Confirmation on whether you would be interested in this tender.
- Confirmation as to whether you can deliver the services in line with the estimated budget. Where suppliers are not able to deliver the services in line with the estimated budget, please advise what budget you could deliver the services for?
- Confirmation as to whether you can deliver the services within the estimated timeframe.
- Any other comments from suppliers regarding this work.

## Supplier Engagement

The supplier engagement session will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00am via Microsoft Teams. Please register your interest with [fmprocurement@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:fmprocurement@uksbs.co.uk) by 16:00 on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

This engagement notice is being issued to undertake a market consultation exercise with regards to the current view of requirement detailed above. If you believe that this will be of interest to you and your organisation, please register your interest by sending an email to the following email address: [fmprocurement@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:fmprocurement@uksbs.co.uk)

By registering and attending you will be engaging in non-competitive dialogue which will enable BEIS to develop and assess the market's appetite, and views on formulation of its requirements.

The session will last approximately one hour and comprise of the following:

- Overview of the project and the testing requirements
- Open floor discussion and Q&A

BEIS may consider the information and responses received as part of the preliminary market consultation to help inform the specification and further decision making in relation to the planning and conduct of the proposed procurement.

For the avoidance of doubt, this notice is not a Call for Competition; a Contract Notice will be issued as a call for competition. Not registering interest shall not prevent any supplier participating in a future procurement, nor is it intended that any information supplied as part of the preliminary market consultation shall place any supplier at an advantage in a potential procurement process.