

Canada to toughen consumer safety law

by UPI

OTTAWA -- Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government introduced legislation Tuesday to expand its power in recalling unsafe products. The bill described to the Globe and Mail newspaper by party sources before its introduction in Ottawa include updates to the Food and Drugs Act, and the creation of a Canadian Consumer Product Safety Act. The legislation would give the government authority to issue mandatory product recalls and fine companies up to \$1 million for selling defective or flawed products. Last August, Conservatives announced a planned overhaul to oversee several unregulated products such as trampolines, infant swings, bath seats and bunk beds, the report said. A controversial aspect of the proposed legislation is an overhaul of how drugs are approved, which would allow new drugs into the market faster with less safety checking and federal monitoring once the drugs are in use, the newspaper said. The pharmaceutical industry would also be required to report all adverse reactions, the bill says.

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