

# Food Physical Safety Analysis



## Your Challenges

While choking hazards in toys have been widely publicized and addressed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), ironically choking hazards in food have lacked federal attention despite the fact that food is far more likely to go into a child's mouth.

The need for incorporating a better understanding of the feeding and swallowing process for adults and children of various ages and abilities is apparent. Food manufacturers must go beyond taste and consider shapes, sizes, textures and packaging risks when designing new food items.

## Our Solutions

As a leading provider of quality and safety solutions for a wide range of industries worldwide, Intertek can assist you in evaluating the possible risk factors of choking associated with your food product and its packaging.

Intertek's research on development structures and the processes behind human airway obstruction has pioneered the field of food physical safety testing. Using rheological measurements, statistical analysis, medical consultation, observational studies and injury and fatality data, risk factors can be observed and compared in a wide range of foods.

While looking at age and physical ability for swallowing and feeding, the tools used measure factors as size shape, texture (i.e. slipperiness), hardness and dissolvability to provide benchmarks for hazard levels based on historical data for similar food products.

Intertek also offers design recommendations that effectively mitigate airway obstruction hazards presented by food products.

For more information please contact us at:  
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### Did You Know?

Children 3 and under are at the highest risk of choking injuries or fatalities due to issues in food design and packaging - with more than three-fourths of all choking injuries occurring among this age group.

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