

# Book Review: Product Liability, by C. J. Miller and P. A. Lovell

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## Citation Information

Anonymous. "Book Review: Product Liability, by C. J. Miller and P. A. Lovell." *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 15.2 (1977) : 541-542.  
<http://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/ohlj/vol15/iss2/22>

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PRODUCT LIABILITY, C. J. MILLER and P. A. LOVELL, London: Butterworths, 1977. Pp. 386.

This book outlines the development of the civil liability of manufacturers, retailers, and others connected with the production and distribution of goods for damage and loss caused by products which are defective or which fail to meet reasonable standards. The subject is conveniently divided into two parts: contractual liability and tortious liability. The first topic includes privity of contract, express and implied warranties, misrepresentations, and exemption clauses. The portion on tortious liability, which is developed in somewhat greater detail, deals with the manufacturer's liability for errors and omissions in production, product design, warnings, and directions for use, as well as proof of negligence, causation, and possible defences. There are also chapters devoted to the liability of persons other than manufacturers, the types of damage which should be compensated, and conflict of laws problems. The conclusion contains a brief discussion of how the authors would like to see product liability develop in the future.

This book is written from a British perspective, but a high proportion of it is devoted to American developments, since the United States has been a forerunner in this field. Each topic is explained in terms of basic principles, followed by a discussion of the leading cases, most of which are relevant to

Canada. Indeed, a number of important Canadian decisions are set out in great detail. There is little reference to statutory material, except the *Sale of Goods Act 1893*, which is substantially the same as the corresponding Canadian law. Thus, this book should be of great help to the Canadian reader interested in obtaining a basic understanding of the law governing product liability.