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Child use and care articles - General safety guidelines - Part 1: Safety philosophy and safety assessment

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Child use and care articles - General safety guidelines - Part 1: Safety philosophy and safety assessment

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 13387-1:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 252 “Child use and care articles”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes CEN/TR 13387:2004.

CEN/TR 13387 comprises the following five parts:

- Safety philosophy and safety assessment (CEN/TR 13387-1);
- Chemical hazards (CEN/TR 13387-2);
- Mechanical hazards (CEN/TR 13387-3);
- Thermal hazards (CEN/TR 13387-4);
- Product information (CEN/TR 13387-5).

Introduction

This is a revision of CR 13387 first published in 1999. It is a non-normative CEN publication which provides guidance information on common hazards that should be taken into consideration when developing safety standards for child use and care articles.

A general safety philosophy and safety assessment methodology is given in Part 1 of these guidelines together with a collection of anthropometric data.

Chemical hazards are addressed in Part 2. The chemical risk associated with the use of materials for the construction, coating and/or packaging of child use and care articles that may affect children's health are considered.

Mechanical hazards are addressed in Part 3. "Mechanical hazard" is a general designation for physical factors which may give rise to injury due to the mechanical properties of products or parts of products.

Thermal hazards are addressed in Part 4. "Thermal hazards" include hazards associated with flammability and the burning characteristics of materials, contact with hot and cold surfaces, liquids and food, contact with flames, contact with products that melt on heating and overheating or exposure of a child to very low and very high temperatures.

Product information which should be supplied with a child use and care article is addressed in Part 5. "Product information" covers all the documentation and information that should be supplied to ensure the safe use of the product and also the safety of the child using the product.

These guidelines deal with hazards that are common to child use and care articles. They have been drawn-up by a working group of experts set up by CEN TC 252 with the prime objective of harmonizing the approach to hazard and risk assessment and injury prevention. The guidelines give recommendations on preventive safety measures to avoid injuries that could be caused by child use and care articles. If the child use and care article has a protective function, this has to be effective; additionally the product itself has to cause no injury to the child.

The standards being drafted by CEN/TC 252 are for child use and care articles intended for children from birth to 48 months of age who form a very vulnerable group in society. Up to 18 months of age the development of knowledge takes place through the combined use of sensory and motor skills, i.e. children learn to see, hear, taste, smell and feel. Their movements are aimed at achieving familiarity with their environment. As children become older they achieve increased muscular control and balance. Even up to 48 months of age children are unpredictable in their behaviour. Special consideration has to be given to the fact that these children cannot understand how to avoid risks and thus are involuntarily exposed to them.

Child use and care articles constitute a group with large variations between the different products. However many safety hazards associated with this diverse group of products are very similar. These guidelines identify many of these safety hazards and give details that enable similar safety principles to be applied to the drafting of standards across the group of products.

The information given in these guidelines reflects the state of the art at publication. Standards and regulations will continuously be developed. Other sources may also provide useful information for the reader.

How to use these guidelines

The safety requirements and test methods given are intended to give guidance and to lead to consistency when writing safety standards for child use and care articles. It is recommended to use these guidelines when drafting standards.

In addition, these guidelines can assist those with a general professional interest in child safety.

The safety requirements detailed do not constitute an exhaustive set that can be applied to all child use and care articles. The application to particular products should be evaluated by experts.

In these guidelines rationales are given to explain the potential hazard. Wherever possible, requirements, test equipment and test methods are given which can be used when drafting standards. The terminology in these guidelines is not the one required for standards; the word '*shall*' has to be used in standards, not '*should*' as given in these guidelines.

CEN/TC 252 is, wherever possible when writing new standards or revising existing standards, drafting their standards on a hazard based format (see for example EN 16120:2012+A1:2014 and EN 1930:2011).

The different parts of the CEN/TR 13387 should enable working groups to draft their standards in a hazard based format by proceeding in the following way:

- identification of the hazards and assessment of the risk;
- definition of the requirements to address an identified hazard and risk;
- definition of relevant test methods to check that the requirements are met;
- provision of an Annex which indicates the rationale for the inclusion of the requirements.

1 Scope

This Technical Report, contains the general safety philosophy and a guideline on safety assessment that experts are recommended to use when drafting standards.

It also contains an Annex A with a collection of available anthropometric data and details of the abilities of children from birth to 48 months of age.

The general safety philosophy given in this part is based on the principle that child use and care articles should be designed to be safe.

Children with special needs have not been taken into account while drafting these guidelines. ISO/IEC Guide 71 should be consulted to ascertain any further requirements to address the hazards and risks associated with children with special needs.

These guidelines do not cover all types of hazards and risks, such as inappropriate use of products, inadequate supervision of children and products used in a non-domestic situation.

Attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that all other potential hazards relevant to the product are fully addressed e.g. hygiene, the effects of electrical power etc., where other safety standards may apply.

2 General safety

Safety is often a balance between being safe from injury and the other demands of a child use and care article, for example, ensuring that the item is fit for purpose as well as meeting consumers' needs and expectations.

Attention should be paid to:

- the child's stage of development (ability, weight, age, etc.);
- the intended or foreseeable use of the product, bearing in mind a child's unpredictable behaviour. This unpredictable behaviour exposes children to injury in ways that differ from those of adults, making children a particularly vulnerable group in society;
- the hazard presented by the product in the environment where the product is used.

Child use and care articles should be designed to be safe. Hazards should be eliminated wherever possible. For cases where a hazard cannot be eliminated or sufficiently minimized – by design or safeguards – product related information should be given. However product related information should not be used as an alternative to safe design.

Where the function of a product or part of a product changes by virtue of its use and is beyond the scope of child use and care articles, appropriate requirements should be applied. An example may be a high chair that can be converted into a normal chair.

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