

Changes expected in the EN standards for toy safety

The European standards for toy safety are regularly updated. This is usually due to changes in legislation but, sometimes, changes are made in order to improve the standards.

Current EN standards for toy safety

EN 71-1 Mechanical and physical properties

EN 71-2 Flammability

EN 71-3 Migration of certain elements

EN 71-4 Experimental sets for chemistry and related activities

EN 71-5 Chemical toys (sets) other than experimental sets

EN 71-7 Finger paints

EN 71-8 Activity toys for domestic use

EN 71-9 Organic chemical compounds – Requirements

EN 71-10 Organic chemical compounds – Sample preparation

EN 71-11 Organic chemical compounds - Methods of analysis

EN 71-12 N-Nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable substances

EN 71-13 Olfactory board games, gustative games, cosmetic kits and gustative games

EN 71-14 Trampolines for domestic use

EN 62115 Electrical toys

Expected changes (please note that the standards that are not mentioned are not currently being discussed)

EN 71-1:2014

Three amendments to this standard have passed a first stage and are expected to be sent out for a final vote during the second half of 2017, so that they could be published at the end of the year. Therefore, before the final vote takes place, the below should be interpreted only as an indication of what changes can be foreseen:

prA1 "Cords and drawstrings in toys and packaging"

This amendment updates definitions of terms such as "cord", "loop", "noose". Overall, the requirements have a clearer structure. New instructions on how to measure the total length when two strings are attached to the same toy are provided. Also, a clarification is introduced around what is meant by a 'permanent warning' on toys strung across a cradle, cot or perambulator. When it comes to toy disguise costumes, a reference is introduced to requirements in EN 14682 ("Cords and drawstrings in children's clothing").

prA2 "Projectiles, rotors, propellers and flying toys"

¹ prA stands for "Preliminary amendment"

This Amendment includes new requirements for "toy catapults " to clarify questions related to unclear Toy Safety Directive (TSD) requirements for these items. Also, it introduces a new requirement for the maximum kinetic energy allowed per surface area: projectiles with large impact surface will be allowed to have higher energy than with the current standard. One important change is that these energy requirements will also apply to some projectiles that cannot "store" energy – such projectiles have previously been exempt from energy requirements. New requirements are also introduced for ‘flying toys’ that are not projectiles (for instance, helicopters that might be radio-controlled or not). A general exemption for many of the projectile requirements is introduced for toys that cannot fly farther than 300 mm.

prA3 "Various"

This part contains ‘miscellaneous’ new requirements and clarifications. When it comes to inflatable toys, it is clarified that certain requirements will not be applied if a pump is needed to inflate the toy. There are also changes in the warning requirements regarding water toys on which children can sit (such as an inflatable crocodile). In terms of the ‘hinge effect’, it is clarified that this requirement also applies for instance, to swivelling forks on balance bikes. In terms of two- and three-wheeled bikes, with handles that allow adults to bring the bike forward, it is clarified when these bikes shall have brakes.

EN 71-2:2011+A1:2014

Revision

After five years from the publication of a standard, it is decided whether it should remain unchanged, be withdrawn or be revised. In 2016, it was decided that the standard EN 71-2 for flammability will be revised. The work has just begun and it will probably involve changes in terms of requirements and test methods for toy disguise costumes.

Depending on how quickly the work is completed, the new standard might be ready in late 2018.

EN 71-3:2013+A1:2014

prA2 "Organic tin"

In order to minimize the risk of getting false indications of the presence of organic tin in materials that have a high content of metallic tin, some changes in the test procedure are made through this amendment. The proposal is currently out for consultation and it is expected to be ready for the final vote during the end of 2017.

prA3 "Adaptation of migration limits"

New migration limits for lead have been decided and the standard will be updated to reflect these.

Revision

A major revision of standard EN 71-3, funded by the European Commission, has recently begun. The revision will include the development of new reference materials, new round robin tests involving many laboratories, etc. The aim is to publish the revised standard in 2019, that further reduces the risk of variations in test results between different laboratories when testing the same material.

EN 71-7:2014

prA1 "Preservatives"

The new adopted restrictions in the TSD for certain preservatives in liquid-based toy materials will be reflected in this amendment to the standard for finger paints. The substances covered by the new restrictions are removed, while alternative preservatives are included in the list. The proposal is currently out for consultation and the final vote will take place so that the amendment is ready to be published in the autumn of 2017.

EN 71-8:2011

Revision

EN 71-8 is presently being revised. The revision includes many several changes and clarifications and a consultation has been recently completed. The aim is to send out the revised version of the standard for a final vote in the middle of 2017 so that it can be published in late 2017 or early 2018.

EN 71-9, 71-10 and 71-11 from 2005

Complete revision

Five years ago it was decided to leave the standards unchanged. During the second half of 2017, however, it is time to once again to consider whether they should be maintained, revised or withdrawn. These three standards have a special status because they are the only ones in the EN 71 series that have never had their reference published in the European Commission's Official Journal. Therefore, they do not formally provide what is called "presumption of conformity" with the TSD.

EN 71-12:2013

Revision

After the publication of EN 71-12 in 2013, an extensive project was conducted in three EU countries to test children's behaviour when it comes to the mouthing of

toys. Based both on this study and on the need to update certain methods, a new version of the standard for nitrosamines and nitrosatable substances was produced. The new version was published in January 2017 and includes stricter requirements for the migration of nitrosamines from toys intended to be placed in the mouth by children under three. The new requirements are likely to be effective in early 2018. It should be noted that Germany still applies national requirements which refer to a different test method (longer migration time) than the one in EN 71-12:2016

EN 71-14:2014

prA1 "Calculation of safety factor"

At the end of March, this amendment will be ready for a final vote and can then be ready for publication late in 2017. The amendment will change the safety factor when calculating the mass to be used in measuring the deflection of the mat during load (to ensure that the use of the mat does not risk it to hit the ground during use). The new factor does not apply to mini-trampolines.

Full revision

When the standard was published in 2014, there was already a list of possible improvements. Now a revised version of the standard incorporating these improvements is under way. It is likely that the proposal will be sent out for consultation in 2017. The revised standard might be published in 2018.

EN 71-XX

New standards

The TSD includes an appendix C that the European Commission and the Member States can update with specific chemical limits for toys intended for children under three and other toys intended to be placed in their mouths. Limits have already been introduced for several chemicals and they will come into force gradually. Work has begun to develop standards that define test methods that could, when applicable, be used to verify that certain materials meet the limit values.

EN 62115:2005 + A2:2011 + A11:2012 (+ A12:2015)

Revision

For the standard related to electric toys, a consolidated standard is not published when a new amendment is published.

Instead, the different amendments need to be read in parallel with the main standard. Currently, electric toys should comply with the main standard and the amendments A2 and A11. As from June 2017, they will also need to comply with amendment A12.

For electrical toys, parallel work has been carried out between the European and the international standardisation organisations with the ambition to publish a revised and consolidated version of the standard. In Europe this will be “EN 62115:2017”. The revised standard contains several changes compared with the current EN version with amendments. One such change regards warnings on toys that contain button or coin cell batteries. Once the standard is published, it is likely that the producers will be granted a minimum of one year to adapt their toys to the new requirements