



Update of the standard for electric toys

1 April 2011

All European standards for toy safety will be revised to support the requirements of the new Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC. The revision of chemical standards is intended to be completed in 2013, but other standards are already being updated in 2011.

The following standards will be updated in 2011:

- EN 71-1 Mechanical and physical properties
- EN 71-2 Flammability
- EN 71-8 Activity toys for domestic use
- EN 62115 Electrical toys

Once the standards have been published, the standardisation organisation sends them to European Commission with a request that the Commission announces that the standards give “presumption of conformity” with the Toy Safety Directive (meaning that toys that meet the requirements in the standards are considered to comply with the corresponding requirements in the Toy Safety Directive).

Summary of upcoming changes to EN 62115 Electrical toys

A new amendment (A 2) was adopted in late 2010 and includes for example:

- clearer definition and explanation of the types of computer accessories that are to be regarded as toys
- new reference to safety requirements for so-called SMPS-transformers for toys
- clarification that the standard does not cover video- and computer games, nor electric fans for large inflatable activity toys
- new definitions of computer toy, battery charger, rechargeable battery toy and functional insulation
- new requirements for rechargeable battery toys, and also for toys that can be powered by batteries and by transformers (so-called “dual-supply” toys)
- new possibility of voltage in the inaccessible parts of the toy to exceed 24 volts under specific circumstances that are unlikely to result in harmful electric shock
- introduction of a requirement for battery-powered toys, with a battery compartment that might be placed above a child, specifying that the battery compartment shall prevent battery electrolyte leakage from the toy

An additional amendment (formally named A11), expected to be adopted in first half of 2011, includes for example:

- adaptation of the standard’s scope of application to bring it in line with the specification in the new Toy Safety Directive



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- additional warnings for transformer toys that can be dangerous for children under 3 years (but are not intended for use by children in that age group)
- adaptation of the requirements for maximum temperature rise of accessible parts to the new CENELEC Guide 29
- new limits for electromagnetic fields (EMF), with reference to the methods in EN 62233 (Household appliances and similar equipment)
- introduction of a requirement that toys that emit electromagnetic radiation shall comply with the generic EMC standards (using test methods adapted for toys)
- new requirements for retained functional safety in case of malfunction of the toy's control system (examples of toys which can present a hazard if they begin to move unexpectedly could be electrical ride-on toys or functional toys such as a toy sewing machine). The functional safety of toys with control systems should also not be impaired by electro-magnetic phenomena
- clarification of dimensional requirements for plugs and socket-outlets of toys, to reduce hazards associated with children inserting plugs (e.g. headphone plugs), connectors and wires into mains sockets
- requirements for toys intended for connecting to IT or AV equipment, specifying that they shall have insulation and creepage distances that give adequate protection to users if voltages of up to 230 V were to be transferred to the toy. Alternatively, the instructions shall explain that the toy must not be connected to products that do not have double insulation
- introduction of an Annexe which provides a background/justification for the requirements of the standard

About TIE

Toy Industries of Europe (TIE) is the trade association for the European toy industry, which comprises over 25% of the total world toy market. The toy industry is highly international and is one of the most dynamic business sectors in Europe. Around 80% of the sector is composed of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) which have less than 50 employees. Members of TIE include corporate companies as well as national associations from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the Nordic region. TIE membership is open to both corporate companies with a presence in Europe and national associations from European Union Member States (including candidate countries).

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