



Update of the toy safety standards for flammability and activity toys

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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 the revision of EN 71-1 Mechanical and physical properties, EN 71-2 Flammability, EN 71-8 Activity toys for domestic use, and EN 62115 Electrical toys, is taking place in 2011.

This article deals with the update of the following standards:

- EN 71-2 Flammability
- EN 71-8 Activity toys

Summary of changes to EN 71-2 Flammability

Only limited technical changes have been introduced in EN 71-2:

- Definitions of “extremely flammable liquid”, “chemical toy”, “materials with similar features” (i.e. material that behaves in a similar way to hair) and “moulded head masks” have been added.
- Definitions of “hair”, “soft toys”, “flammable liquids” and “strongly flammable liquids” have been amended.
- The term “substantially flammable solid material” has been removed since there is no corresponding definition and since it is covered by “material with the characteristics of celluloid.”
- Clarification of the prerequisites for the assessment of surface flame have been introduced.
- Wigs, etc. made from hair, pile or material with similar properties that protrude 5mm or less from the toy’s surface are considered as head-dresses.
- It has been clarified that the requirements for “toys to be worn on the head” also apply to “materials with similar features”.
- For “toys intended to be entered by a child”, it has been clarified that the test specimen may consist of two separate pieces from the same toy (if material is missing to obtain a sufficiently large specimen).
- An upper limit for the application of the test flame has been added.
- Tolerances for test equipment have been introduced.
- The section on “test report” has been removed.
- Moulded eye masks and face masks that neither cover the chin nor a cheek are now covered by 4.2.5, requiring that the rate of spread of flame of the test sample does not exceed 10mm/s (or that the sample self-extinguishes).
- All soft-filled toys (regardless if they have a piled or textile surface or not) are covered by 4.5 unless they cannot be cuddled or hugged by a child during play, or are smaller

than 150mm. 4.5 requires that the spread of flame on the surface is 30mm/s or less or that the flame self-extinguishes.

In an informative text, EN 71-2 mentions that textile toys intended for children under 36 months shall be possible to wash except if they contain a mechanism that may be damaged if soaked. After washing according to the manufacturer's instructions the safety requirements must still be fulfilled. Therefore, the manufacturer could/should include instructions for washing when applicable. No test method for washing has been introduced in EN 71-2. The requirement is dealt with in the safety assessment.

EN 71-2 "Flammability" was submitted to the final voting in April and the new standard is expected to be published in September 2011.

Summary of changes to EN 71-8 Activity toys

- The title has been changed to "Activity toys for domestic use".
- The previous exclusion in the scope for "equipment intended for use in schools, kindergartens, public playgrounds etc." has been replaced by an exclusion for "playground equipment intended for public use" and exclusions have been added for toy trampolines and toy pools.
- The definition of "platform" (which affects when the requirements for barrier protection apply) has been modified.
- The definition of "Activity toy" has been changed and it is now identical to that in the new Directive.
- A definition of, and requirements for, "paddling pools" (paddling pools with a maximum of 400 mm water depth) have been included in the standard. The requirements relate to the strength of non-inflatable walls as well as to labelling with pictogram and warnings.
- Holes that pose a risk of a child's finger getting caught while their body is in motion (e.g. on a swing or slide) may not be 7-12mm (diameter) if the toy is intended for children over 36 months (if the toy is intended for children under 36 months, the holes may not be 5-12mm).
- A requirement has been introduced for slides, stipulating a maximum angle to the horizontal plane (60 degrees) as well as a minimum angle between the runway and exit portion.
- A new load weight is introduced to simulate the use of swing seats made in flexible materials, in connection with certain tests.
- A requirement and test methods for maximum permissible impact energy from swings have been introduced. Exemptions are given for swings with a mass of less than 1kg, for swings intended for children under 3, and for swings with two seats which are protected on three sides. Geometrical requirements and design requirements have been introduced for the parts of the swing that can hit a child as well as for the footrest.
- A new requirement for warning labels on all activity toys has been introduced. The toys shall carry the warning: "Warning. Only for domestic use".
- Additional requirements have been introduced relating to the provision of information to the user and maintenance measures (e.g. that paddling pools should be drained when not in use).

- Test methods for stability and strength have been modified such that the load is proportional to the number of users. The number of users is calculated using a new table.

EN 71-8 “Activity toys for domestic use” will be submitted to the final voting in early June 2011 and the new standard is expected to be published in November 2011.

About TIE

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