



## Final vote on new changes to EN 71-1

29 October 2013

*Work on standards for toy safety in the EN 71 series is ongoing. It is expected that two new amendments to EN 71-1 will be published in early 2014: one indicating a good practice for the design of warnings and one clarifying when paperboard or cardboard presents a choking hazard.*

### **Amendment on the legibility of warnings**

The new Toy Safety Directive states that warnings should be 'clearly visible, easily legible and understandable and accurate'. This is a more precise text than that in the old directive, which stated that toys had to be accompanied by 'appropriate clearly legible warnings'.

Toy safety standards specify detailed technical requirements that support the more general requirements of the Directive. The European standardisation body (CEN) has therefore been requested to amend the EN 71-1 standard in order to clarify how to ensure that warnings are 'clearly visible, easily legible and understandable and accurate'. The proposal for the final vote adds a requirement stating that manufacturers should consider the 'good practice' that will be added to an informative annex to the standard. The following is included in the 'good practice' in the annex:

- Emphasise warnings, e.g. by placing them in a prominent position on the toy and/or its packaging
- Avoid large amounts of information
- Do not mix safety information with commercial information
- The text of the warnings on the packaging should be conspicuous and reasonably related to the font, visibility, legibility and size of other printed matter on the packaging
- In multi-language text, clearly separate the individual languages, e.g. by a flag, spacing, country code or other means
- The colour of the warning should be in sharp contrast with the colour of the background
- When using the age warning symbol, ensure contrast between the red circle and the background on which the pictogram is placed
- Avoid strong background patterns or images that may interfere with the warning text
- Avoid red-green and blue-yellow colour combinations, as these may create problems for persons with colour-vision deficiency
- Avoid highly reflecting surfaces and highly reflecting glossy paper leading to poor legibility for surfaces displaying warning text
- Avoid transparent packaging material that may obscure or deform the warning text
- Preferably use sans-serif font types and avoid the use of different font types in the warning text
- Consider increasing the font size where possible to improve the visibility and legibility of text, and using font sizes that allow all target groups, including those with corrected vision, to read the warning



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- Consider using larger warning symbols than the minimum size (diameter of 10 mm) where possible
- Place the warning in the logical direction considering the lay-out of the information on the surrounding packaging or, if appropriate, the normal orientation of the toy

### **Amendment on paperboard/cardboard**

EN 71-1 requires that toys intended for children under 36 months should not release small parts (choking hazard). Some materials are exempt from this requirement, such as paper with a gram weight not exceeding 400 grams per square meter.

This limit for gram weight has caused problems for some products made from paperboard with a gram weight above 400 grams per square meter. The test methods used to assess whether small parts can be released from the toy (e.g. torque and tension tests) may, for example, cause release of a corner of a toy book made of paperboard. This means that the toy book cannot be approved even though the release of a corner of a toy book is generally not considered to pose a choking risk. This is because a small child can only tear off small pieces of cardboard by sucking or chewing on a book corner, meaning that the pieces that come off are already heavily wetted and thus softened and partly dissolved. When asked whether small pieces of wetted cardboard would be considered as choking hazards, doctors have responded that there is currently no evidence to support this.

The proposed addition means that companies would no longer need to carry out the normal small parts tests on cardboard toys as long as they are not laminated with plastic. However, they must be tested to check if the toy includes 'loose' pieces of paperboard that fit in the small parts cylinder. This would apply both to parts that are supplied 'loose' and to parts that are loosely attached to a larger part of the toy. A pulling force of 25 N will be required to determine if a part is loosely attached to the toy. Such parts are not permitted in toys intended for children under 36 months since a child could put such small pieces of dry cardboard in its mouth, which would present a choking hazard.

### **About TIE**

*Toy Industries of Europe (TIE) is the trade association for the European toy industry. The toy industry is highly international and is one of the most dynamic business sectors in Europe. Over 99% 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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