

English Version

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

Articles de puériculture - Conseils relatifs à la sécurité -
Partie 1 : Principes de sécurité et évaluation de la
sécurité

Artikel für Säuglinge und Kleinkinder -
Sicherheitsleitfaden - Teil 1 : Sicherheitsgrundsätze
und Sicherheitsbeurteilung

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 13387-1:2018) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 252 “Child 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 shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes CEN/TR 13387-1:2015.

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 document 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 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 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 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 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 care articles. If the child care article has a protective function, this should be effective; additionally the product itself should cause no injury to the child.

The standards being drafted by CEN/TC 252 are for child 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 the brain, senses, motoric abilities and 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 should be given to the fact that these children cannot understand how to avoid risks and thus are involuntarily exposed to them.

Child 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 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 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 and EN 1930).

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 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 can 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 Normative reference

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

harm

injury or damage to the health of people, or damage to property or the environment

3.2

hazard

potential source of harm

3.3

risk

combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

Note 1 to entry: The probability of occurrence includes the exposure to a hazardous situation, the occurrence of a hazardous event, and the possibility to avoid or limit the harm.

3.4

hazard characterisation

quantitative evaluation of the nature of the adverse health effects following exposure to a risk source(s)