

Specification for

Safety requirements for child safety barriers for domestic use

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Consumer and Contract Goods Standards Policy Committee (CCM/-) to Technical Committee CCM/40, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association for Consumer Research (ACRE)
- Association of British Paediatric Nurses
- Baby Products Association
- British Association of Nursery and Pram Retailers
- British Hardware Federation
- British Retailers' Association
- Child Accident Prevention Trust
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Education and Science
- Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
- Furniture Industry Research Association
- Institute of Consumer Ergonomics
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Consumer and Contract Goods Standards Policy Committee. It is the second revision of this standard and supersedes BS 4125:1982, which is withdrawn.

The types of child safety barriers specified in this revision are designed to be placed across a staircase or a door opening to prevent a young child going past them, whilst permitting an adult to release the barrier with little difficulty. It is applicable to barriers both with and without opening gate features. The strength test specified in the 1982 edition has been replaced in this revision by three new tests for impact, rattling and static load. The impact test is considered to be more reproducible than the previous strength test.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies safety requirements for child safety barriers for domestic use, i.e. barriers which are designed to be fitted across openings to prevent young children up to 24 months of age passing, but which can be removed or opened to allow access by older persons able to operate the locking mechanism.

NOTE 1 Guidance on the selection and use of materials is given in Appendix A.

NOTE 2 The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Materials

2.1 Plastics

Plastics on all parts of the barrier, whether exposed or accessible to a child, shall not contain any soluble antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead or mercury, or any soluble compound of any of those elements, which exceeds the following amounts when determined in accordance with 8.2 and 9.2 of BS 5665-3:1989:

antimony	250 mg/kg;
arsenic	100 mg/kg;
barium	500 mg/kg;
cadmium	100 mg/kg;
chromium	100 mg/kg;
lead	250 mg/kg;
mercury	100 mg/kg.

2.2 Coatings and finishes

Any coating of paint, varnish, lacquer or similar substance on any part of the barrier, whether exposed or accessible to a child, shall not contain any soluble antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead or mercury, or any soluble compound of any of those elements, which exceeds the following amounts when determined in accordance with 8.1 and 9.1 of BS 5665-3:1989:

antimony	250 mg/kg;
arsenic	100 mg/kg;
barium	500 mg/kg;
cadmium	100 mg/kg;
chromium	100 mg/kg;
lead	250 mg/kg;
mercury	100 mg/kg.

Where a surface is coated with a multilayer of paint or similar coating the sample shall be taken down to the substrate.

2.3 Dyed textiles

Dyed textiles used in any part of the barrier, when tested in accordance with section E04 of BS 1006:1978, shall give a numerical rating for change in colour of not less than 4 and a fastness grade for staining of not less than 3.

2.4 All materials

Where different parts of the barrier are coated with different materials, the coating of each part shall comply with 2.1 and 2.2. The requirements shall not apply to any coating unless it is possible to obtain at least 10 mg of that coating from a single barrier.

3 Construction

3.1 The barrier shall be capable of fitting into an opening of 800 mm width.

3.2 The barrier shall accommodate any width variation of the opening up to 25 mm each side whilst remaining vertical in both planes.

3.3 There shall be a minimum gap of 700 mm between the top surfaces of adjacent pairs of horizontal members. When fixed into an opening in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, there shall be no footholds within the 700 mm gap that are more than 100 mm from either wall.

3.4 When the barrier has filling bars or slats, the minimum spacing between adjacent vertical members shall be 25 mm. The maximum spacing shall be 100 mm when tested in accordance with Appendix B. When the barrier is of a mesh or lattice-type construction, the maximum space between adjacent vertical members shall be 25 mm. Diamond-type rigid mesh construction shall not be used. When fitted into the widest opening within the range of widths for which the barrier is intended and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, the space between the end member of the barrier and the edge of the opening shall be not less than 25 mm and not greater than 100 mm. If the end vertical member is not vertical along the whole of its length it shall have a vertical dimension of at least 500 mm in height.

3.5 If the barrier contains any fabric mesh, when tested in accordance with Appendix C the probe shall not pass through the mesh and the threads of the mesh shall not break.

3.6 When tested in accordance with Appendix B the total residual deflection 1 min after removal of the force shall be not greater than 4 mm.

3.7 When assembled in an opening in accordance with D.1, barriers that are hinged or have a hinged section to allow an adult to walk through shall comply with the following: