

Specification for

**Safety harnesses  
(including detachable  
walking reins) for  
restraining children  
when in perambulators  
(baby carriages),  
pushchairs and high  
chairs and when  
walking**

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# Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Personal Safety Equipment Standards Policy Committee (PSM/-) to Technical Committee PSM/19, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association for Consumer Research (ACRE)
- Baby Products Association
- British Leather Confederation
- British Leathersgoods Manufacturers' Association
- British Narrow Fabrics Association
- British Retailers' Association
- Child Accident Prevention Trust
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
- Health Visitors' Association
- National Children's Wear Association
- Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Personal Safety Equipment Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 31 May 1989

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## Foreword

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Personal Safety Equipment Standards Policy Committee, supersedes BS 6684:1987 which is withdrawn.

The first (1987) edition of this standard superseded two standards: BS 3805, which was withdrawn, and BS 3785 which has since been declared obsolescent but is retained as it is referred to in current Government regulations. At the time of publication of this British Standard, no corresponding international standard exists.

This edition introduces technical changes to bring the standard up-to-date but it does not reflect a full review of the standard, which will be undertaken in due course.

This edition includes requirements for webbing made from yarn of polypropylene fibres.

This standard applies to safety harnesses in which the straps are constructed of textile webbing (made of cotton, polyamide (nylon), polyester, or polypropylene) and/or of leather. This, however, is not intended to inhibit the development of the use of other materials of construction. In particular, the committee responsible for this standard has recognized that it remains for future consideration of relevant technical developments whether the scope of the standard might be expanded to allow for the use of straps made of composite materials of construction.

The safety harnesses are designed to prevent babies and young children of 4 months up to about 4 years of age from injuring themselves or being injured through lack of sufficient physical restraint when they are occupying either a perambulator (baby carriage), pushchair or high chair, or when walking. Provision has been made for a rein for use with the harness assembly (and side straps if appropriate) at the walking stage, and the safety harness is tested on the assumption that it will be used in this way. The method of test is intended to simulate the effect of a child weighing 18 kg (40 lb) suddenly falling a distance of 300 mm (11.8 in) and then being restrained by the safety harness against further falling.

The number of accidents reported that involve safety harnesses is small but the limited evidence available suggests that three common factors are involved: the children were over 12 months old and very active; they had been left unattended in a perambulator (baby carriage), pushchair or high chair; and the side straps of the safety harnesses had not been correctly adjusted to restrain them. This standard therefore introduces requirements for the maximum length of side straps and also requires that instructions be provided referring to the importance of limiting free play to prevent the child from taking up an unsafe position.

Attention is drawn to the Toys (Safety) Regulations 1989 (SI 1989/1275).

Attention is also drawn to the importance of ensuring that the attachment points for safety harnesses in perambulators (baby carriages), pushchairs and high chairs be at least as strong as the safety harnesses themselves and so positioned that the child cannot slip forward or stand up when the safety harness is adjusted correctly. For this purpose it is generally desirable that the attachment points be placed at the base of the perambulator (baby carriage), pushchair or high chair.

At the present time purchasers generally expect harness assemblies to be provided with suitable side straps, which are designed to enable the harness assembly to be fitted to a perambulator (baby carriage), pushchair or high chair that may be bought independently. Because the position of the child relative to the points of attachment that are provided for side straps might vary from one appliance to another, it is important that the side straps of the safety harness should be adjustable accordingly.

This British Standard calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that may be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

It has been assumed in the drafting of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions is entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people.

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.** In particular, attention is drawn to the need for the fibre content to be given in accordance with Statutory Instrument 1973 No. 2124 Trade Descriptions, The Textile Products (Indication of fibre content) Regulations and subsequent amendments.

### Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 12, 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.

