

BRITISH STANDARD

Writing and marking instruments –

Part 1: Specification for caps to reduce the risk of asphyxiation

ICS 01.100.40; 97.180; 97.190



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ISBN 978 0 580 59994 1

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:

Committee reference TDW/4

Draft for comment 07/30170002 DC

Publication history

First published as BS 7272 January 1990

Second edition, March 1998

First published as Part 1 (renumbering amendment) September 2000

Second (present) edition, April 2008

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. no.	Date	Text affected
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Contents

Foreword *iii*

- 1** Scope *1*
- 2** Terms and definitions *1*
- 3** Requirements *1*
- 4** Identification *3*

Annexes

- Annex A (normative) Test for air flow *4*
- Annex B (informative) Design guidance for pen caps vent area *5*

Bibliography *7*

List of figures

- Figure 1 – Schematic diagram of gauge *2*
- Figure A.1 – Schematic diagram of test rig *5*
- Figure B.1 – Sectional view of cap *6*

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 7 and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 7272 is published by BSI and came into effect on 30 April 2008. It was prepared by Panel TDW/4/-/2, *Drawing media*, under the authority of Technical Committee TDW/4, *Technical product realization (TPR)*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This part of BS 7272 supersedes BS 7272-1:2000+A1:2000, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

This part of BS 7272 is technically related to ISO 11540.

Information about this document

If a child inhales a pen cap it might become lodged below the larynx and so block the trachea. The risk of asphyxiation can be reduced if the pen cap is ventilated or too large to enter the airway. Children should be actively discouraged from sucking, chewing or putting pen caps in their mouths. A way of avoiding the risk of inhalation of caps of writing and marking instruments is to manufacture products without caps whenever possible. However, if caps are essential, the provisions of this part of BS 7272 minimize risk by specifying the design and performance of ventilated caps which reduce the likelihood of inhalation and delays asphyxiation pending medical intervention.

The Technical Committee recognizes that whilst it is possible to identify the age range of the children who are most at risk, it is not possible to identify with certainty any writing instruments with detachable caps that would never be accessible to children and hence never pose a risk. It is, however, acknowledged that certain products (i.e. writing and marking instruments which are designed or only intended for use by adults, e.g. jewellery pens, expensive fountain pens, professional technical pens) are not intended for use by children and such items should be clearly labelled to that effect.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “shall”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Requirements in this standard are drafted in accordance with *The BSI guide to standardization – Section 2: Rules for the structure, drafting and presentation of British Standards*, subclause **11.3.1**, which states, “Requirements should be expressed using wording such as: ‘When tested as described in Annex A, the product shall ...’”. This means that only those products that are capable of passing the specified test will be deemed to conform to this standard.