

Child care articles — Soother holder — Safety requirements and test methods

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ICS 97.190

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the EN title page, pages 2 to 21 and a back cover.

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This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Consumer Products and Services Sector Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Committee and comes into effect on 11 November 1999

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ISBN 0 580 35132 7

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

English version

Child care articles — Soother holder — Safety requirements and test methods

Articles de puériculture - Attache sucette - Exigences de sécurité et méthodes d'essai

Artikel für Säuglinge und Kleinkinder - Schnullerhalter - Sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren

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Contents	Page
Foreword.....	3
Introduction	4
1 Scope.....	5
2 Normative references.....	5
3 Definitions	5
4 Description of a soother holder	6
5 Requirements.....	10
5.1 General requirements.....	10
5.2 Mechanical requirements	11
5.3 Chemical requirements	12
6 Test methods	14
6.1 Mechanical tests.....	14
6.2 Chemical tests.....	18
7 Consumer packaging.....	19
8 Product information	20
8.1 General.....	20
8.2 Purchase information	20
8.3 Instructions for use	20
Annex A (informative) Bibliography	21

Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 252, Child use and care articles, the Secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2000, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2000.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

Accidents caused by soothers are few and any resulting in the death of a child are almost unknown. However, a small number of children do die as a result of accidents where a soother is involved, but in these cases death almost always results from strangulation by a cord being used to hang the soother around the child's neck. Such cords are usually either homemade or made for some other purpose, e.g., a coiled keyring holder. Accordingly, a standard for purpose-made soother holders is highly desirable.

This standard is the first for this type of product and its main aim is to eliminate the risk of strangulation. This has only been made possible by severely restricting the length of the holder. The length should be sufficient for the purpose whilst not being so long that the strap, cord, ribbon or chain, etc., could encircle the neck and strangle even the smallest of children.

A strictly functional soother holder, i. e. a pair of undecorated clips joined together by a strap, cord, ribbon or plastic chain, is not to be considered a toy. Making either or both of the clips into simple shapes, with or without decorations by painting or printing, is not sufficient to make the product into a toy. If however, the garment fastener is made more attractive, by for example the addition of a small soft toy, then the entire product becomes a toy as well as being a soother holder.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies safety requirements relating to the materials, construction, performance, packaging and labelling of soother holders.

It includes test methods for the mechanical and chemical requirements specified.

All products which are intended to be used by a child to connect a soother with any other products are included in the scope of this standard.

There are some products designed for more than one role, for example a soother holder might incorporate a rattle device or a soft toy. Alternatively, the connecting cord might carry a string of decorative coloured beads. Any such products should conform to the requirements of this standard. However, as such products are also toys, the entire product should additionally meet the relevant requirements of EN 71.

2 Normative references

This European standard incorporates by dated or undated references, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments, to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revisions. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

EN 71-1, *Safety of toys - Part 1: Mechanical and physical properties.*

EN 71-3, 1994, *Safety of toys - Part 3: Migration of certain elements.*

EN 1811, *Reference test method for release of nickel from products intended to come into direct and prolonged contact with the skin.*

EN 20105-A03, *Textiles - Tests of colour fastness - Part A03: Grey scale for assessing staining (ISO 105-A03:1993).*

EN ISO 105-E01, *Textiles - Test for colour fastness - Part E01: Colour fastness to water (ISO 105-E01:1994).*

EN ISO 105-E04, *Textiles - Test for colour fastness - Part E04: Colour fastness to perspiration (ISO 105-E04:1994).*

EN ISO 291, *Plastics - Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing (ISO 291:1997).*

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply:

3.1

soother holder

article which enables a soother to be secured to a child's garment, etc.

3.2

garment fastener

device for securing the soother holder to a child's garment, etc.

3.3

soother fastener

device for securing the soother holder to the soother

3.4

strap

any connecting device between a garment fastener and the soother fastener

3.5

touch-and-close fastener

device having fibre interlocking faces which are secured when pressed together

3.6

clothing fastener device

part of the garment fastener which attaches it to the clothing

3.7

press stud

fastener with two parts that engage when pressed together

3.8

ventilation holes

holes in the fasteners providing an air passage

NOTE Ventilation holes in the fasteners provide an air passage for the infant to breathe should the infant take the fasteners into and become accidentally lodged in the mouth. The holes also reduce the risk of the fasteners being sucked into the pharynx through the generation of negative pressure.

4 Description of a soother holder

A soother holder may consist of:

- garment fastener (1);
- strap (cord, ribbon, chain etc.) (2);
- soother fastener (3).

NOTE See Figures 1, 2 and 3.