

Textiles — Burning behaviour of children's nightwear — Specification

ICS 13.220.40; 61.020; 97.190

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 14878:2007, incorporating corrigendum January 2009.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee TCI/66, Apparel and interior textiles, to Panel TCI/66/-/8, Burning behaviour.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

The UK has had national legislation relating to flammability of nightwear in place since 1985. The UK legislation is significantly more demanding than some of the requirements in this standard and there are no plans to withdraw the legislation. Consequently, the UK has requested an A-deviation. (See Annex C of this standard.) As a result, the requirements for children’s nightwear are complex. The UK legislation — The Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985 — applies to nightwear as defined in Clause 3 of the Regulations. This states that in the UK, from 1 March 1987, it has been an offence to “supply, offer to supply, agree to supply, expose for supply, or possess for supply” nightwear which does not meet the requirements of the legislation.

For certain garment types, and ages of intended wearer, the requirements of this standard are significantly lower in areas such as flammability performance and labelling than the UK legislation. In other respects, e.g. children’s pyjamas, this standard is more onerous.

Where the requirements of the standard exceed the legislation, the former should be followed in order to claim compliance with the standard. Further guidance is given in Annex C.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Comments
31 December 2009	Implementation of CEN corrigendum January 2009; table in Annex C replaced

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English Version

Textiles - Burning behaviour of children's nightwear - Specification

Textiles - Comportement au feu des vêtements de nuit des
enfants - Spécification

Textilien - Brennverhalten von Kindernachtwäsche -
Anforderungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 26 April 2007.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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Foreword

This document (EN 14878:2007) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 248 "Textiles and textile products", the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

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 November 2007, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2008.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

The contents of this standard consider those items of nightwear and nightwear fabrics that could pose a significant risk of injury to children from the hazards presented by the potential to catch fire.

Accident statistics (see Bibliography) indicate the most common sources of ignition to be:

- a) cooking appliances;
- b) sitting too close to a fire;
- c) use of matches;
- d) use of smoking materials;
- e) candles used primarily for decoration.

Consideration was given to garments and other such items intended for use by babies under the age of six (6) months. On the basis that babies of this age are not yet mobile, i.e. they are unable to crawl or walk, the risk was considered low.

The principle upon which this standard is based is the acceptance that most, but not all, fabrics used in the manufacture of children's nightwear will ignite when exposed to a small flame. On this premise therefore, there is no requirement for a specific ignitability test. The specification requires that the parameters of time of flame spread and surface flash are measured using a specified test procedure (EN 1103).

The risk of fire may be diminished in some situations by the use of a suitable flame retardant. However, the application of a flame retardant could be considered to present a health risk. Both points of view were discussed in the feasibility study, prepared under a Mandate (M/263) that preceded the Standardization Mandate.

Following the publication and implementation of this standard in CEN countries, there should be an 18 month transition period from the date of availability, to allow manufacturers to develop and produce garments that conform to the standards. The period is also to allow the supply chain, from manufacturer to the consumer, to be cleared on non-conforming garments.

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

Introduction

The aim of this European Standard is to define a harmonised procedure for the specification of children's nightwear or fabrics intended for children's nightwear with regard to their burning behaviour.

Within the scope of this specification it is not possible to cover all the potential hazards that may create an unsafe garment; conversely, indefinable specific hazards in certain styles/design of garment may not present a risk. It is therefore recommended that an individual risk assessment is carried out on any garment in order to ensure that it does not present a hazard to the wearer and can therefore be deemed to be a 'safe' garment. This includes the use of applied flame retardant treatments. Durability of such finishes will require assessment. No European Standard method addressing durability of such treatments has yet been established.