

Packaging — Child-resistant packaging — Requirements and testing procedures for non-reclosable packages for non-pharmaceutical products

The European Standard EN 862:2005 has the status of a British Standard

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee PKW/0, Packaging, to Subcommittee PKW/0/3, Child resistant packaging, which has the responsibility to:

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- present to the responsible international/European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep UK interests informed;
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**Packaging - Child-resistant packaging - Requirements and
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pharmaceutical products**

Emballages - Emballage à l'épreuve des enfants -
Exigences et méthodes d'essai pour emballages non
refermables pour les produits non pharmaceutiques

Verpackung - Kindergesicherte Verpackung -
Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren für
nichtwiederverschließbare Verpackungen für
nichtpharmazeutische Produkte

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 14 October 2005.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

Management Centre: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

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Foreword

This document (EN 862:2005) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 261 "Packaging" 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2006, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2006.

This document supersedes EN 862:2001.

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

Introduction

Child-resistant packaging is used to create a physical barrier between a child and a potentially hazardous product. Various types of packaging are recognized as being child-resistant, based on performance testing against standards for specific product categories and packaging types.

Since this type of packaging was introduced, the incidence of accidental ingestion of potentially hazardous products by children under 5 years old has fallen. The degree to which this is due to the use of child-resistant packaging as opposed to other factors, such as greater public awareness of the hazards, is not easily assessed, but there is little doubt that this packaging has made a positive contribution to the reduction.

The use of child-resistant packaging needs to be confined to those products that are potentially hazardous, or for which any legislation makes its use mandatory, since, if used in other circumstances, there could be confusion over the degree of hazard posed by the product.

In any case, proper labelling and information by the manufacturer is important for the safe use of the product in the home.

Child-resistant packaging acts as the last line of defence if other barriers separating the child and hazardous product have failed. However, it has to be recognized that it is unrealistic to expect that any functional packaging can be totally impossible for a child of 42 to 51 months inclusive to open and that child-resistant packaging cannot be a substitute for other safety precautions.

There has been an increasing use of child-resistant packaging, therefore it is desirable to achieve agreement on testing procedures in order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding in an area of great importance to the safety of young children.

This standard aims to reduce the number of children “exposed to training” during panel testing. Since the introduction of performance testing much has been learned about the use of children for testing child-resistant packaging and attention has been focused on how the number of children involved may be reduced. Future development of standards based on mechanical test methods is required to avoid unnecessary child panel testing and is essential in developing physical package attributes useable by manufacturers.

Child-resistant packaging is only the last in a series of protective measures, and does not release parents or guardians from their duty to keep potentially dangerous products out of the reach of children.

The on-going development of non-reclosable packaging offers a significant area for innovation in packaging. The styles of non-reclosable packages can be wide-ranging in design.

Mechanical test methods may be used to generate test data for comparison and demonstration that the notified packaging is as safe as the original reference one. Mechanical tests are test methods generating data by destructive or non destructive tests of a specific reference package having shown child-resistant properties. Consequently, the development of mechanical test methods by manufacturers allied to current EN or national standards should be pursued as a means of reducing the reliance on child panel testing.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies performance requirements and methods of test for non-reclosable packaging that has been designated child-resistant and which is intended to contain non-pharmaceutical products. This standard is intended for type approval only (2.5) and is not intended for quality assurance purposes.

This European Standard applies to non-reclosable packages of the single-use type consisting of one or more individual units.

Non-reclosable packages for pharmaceutical products are excluded from the scope of this standard. These are the subject of a separate standard, EN 14375 *Child-resistant non-reclosable packaging for pharmaceutical products - Requirements and testing*.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this European standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

child-resistant package

package which is difficult for young children to open (or gain access to the contents), but which it is possible for adults to use properly

2.2

non-reclosable child-resistant package

child-resistant package or part of a child-resistant package which, when all or part of the contents have been removed, cannot be properly closed again

2.3

substitute product

inert substitute resembling the product it replaces, i.e. powder, tablets or liquids (uncoloured water), etc.

2.4

unit

discrete quantity of any product to be removed from its immediate packaging in its entirety

2.5

type approval

procedure to certify as child-resistant a specific type of non-reclosable package, formed from a specified set of materials, which has met the requirements of this standard

2.6

single use package

package of one or several units which are not only individually protected but also individually packed for single use

3 Requirements

3.1 General requirements

A non-reclosable child-resistant package, when tested in accordance with the requirements of this standard, shall be capable of providing a satisfactory degree of resistance to opening by children (3.2.1). Accessibility to its contents by adults can be checked according to the optional adult test (3.2.2).