



BSI Standards Publication

Packaging — Ease of opening — Criteria and test methods for evaluating consumer packaging

National foreword

This Draft for Development is the UK implementation of CEN/TS 15945:2011.

This publication is not to be regarded as a British Standard.

It is being issued in the Draft for Development series of publications and is of a provisional nature. It should be applied on this provisional basis, so that information and experience of its practical application can be obtained.

Comments arising from the use of this Draft for Development are requested so that UK experience can be reported to the international organization responsible for its conversion to an international standard. A review of this publication will be initiated not later than 3 years after its publication by the international organization so that a decision can be taken on its status. Notification of the start of the review period will be made in an announcement in the appropriate issue of *Update Standards*.

According to the replies received by the end of the review period, the responsible BSI Committee will decide whether to support the conversion into an international Standard, to extend the life of the Technical Specification or to withdraw it. Comments should be sent to the Secretary of the responsible BSI Technical Committee at British Standards House, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PKW/0/-/12, Packaging - Ease of opening.

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

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

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ISBN 978 0 580 67381 8

ICS 55.020

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

This Draft for Development was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 April 2011.

Amendments issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
SPÉCIFICATION TECHNIQUE
TECHNISCHE SPEZIFIKATION

CEN/TS 15945

March 2011

ICS 55.020

English Version

**Packaging - Ease of opening - Criteria and test methods for
evaluating consumer packaging**

Emballage - Facilité d'ouverture - Critères et méthodes
d'essai pour évaluer un emballage destiné aux
consommateurs

Verpackung - Leichtes Öffnen - Kriterien und Prüfverfahren
für die Bewertung von Verbraucherpackungen

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 17 January 2011 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

CEN members are required to announce the existence of this CEN/TS in the same way as for an EN and to make the CEN/TS available promptly at national level in an appropriate form. It is permissible to keep conflicting national standards in force (in parallel to the CEN/TS) until the final decision about the possible conversion of the CEN/TS into an EN is reached.

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 15945:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 261 “Packaging”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this Technical Specification: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, 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 the United Kingdom.

Introduction

Ease of opening is an important factor when designing consumer packaging, as it is important that consumers of all ages, and of both genders, should be able to access the contents of the package. Consumers may ultimately avoid the purchase of a particular type of packaging which has proved consistently to be difficult to open. It is recognised that there is a difference in strength on average between male and female consumers.

Knowing that strength in the hands reduces with age, a panel test method that focuses on elderly consumers, with less than the average hand strength, can help to gain a new perspective on the ease of opening of packaging. Packaging that is easy to open for elderly consumers will, in most cases, be easy for the average consumer to open. It is recognised that there will be consumers with extreme impairment that this specification cannot represent.

To present valid mechanical test methods for the wide range of packaging present on the market today is not possible in this specification at this time. A test protocol inspired by the principles described in the ISO 20282 series of standards is therefore used in Annex A. However, it should be noted that mechanical testing and sensory test by trained panel are useful tools when developing easy to open packaging or for quality control. We recommend the generation of mechanical data to allow the introduction of new methods, as a means of demonstrating compliance with this specification.

When appropriate; CEN-CENELEC Guide 6, "Guidelines for standards developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities" and the referenced documents were considered when drafting the specification.

This document specifies procedures for ease of opening. It should commensurate with the maintenance of:

- functionality throughout the supply and user chain;
- safety and hygiene for both product and user/consumer;
- acceptability of the packed product to the user/consumer.

The purpose of the test methods should be to evaluate whether a particular design of packaging can be considered easy to open by the large majority of consumers, including elderly consumers. The test methods may be used by, for example:

- a designer or manufacturer; to check whether ease of opening requirements have been met;
- a potential purchaser or consumers organisation to check whether a particular design of packaging meets their requirements regarding ease of opening;
- a manufacturer, potential purchaser or consumers organisation to compare alternative products.

The results can provide evidence of the ease of opening of a particular design of packaging to potential purchasers. A test may be carried out by the manufacturer or purchaser directly or by assigning the task to an appropriate test organisation.

Where the information derived from the test is used for any purpose other than for internal technical or product development, for example to make a public statement regarding packaging ease of opening in relation to this specification, testing should be carried out, or should be independently verified, by an accredited test organisation. The information should be provided in sufficient detail to allow replication of the data-scoring methods by another organization if the test is repeated.