PD CEN/TR 16512:2015

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Child use and care articles — Guidelines for the safety of children's slings

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

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Artikel für Säuglinge und Kleinkinder - Leitfaden zur Sicherheit von Babytragetüchern

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TR 16512:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 252 "Child use and care articles", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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Introduction

This Technical Report has been produced to provide safety guidance for designers, manufacturers, suppliers and users of slings which are products designed to carry a child solely on the carer's torso.

Slings are similar to soft carriers which are also designed to carry a child on the carer's torso, the main differences are that slings do not have integral openings for the child's limbs and form their structure only when attached to the carer's torso. Slings consist of a variety of designs ranging from a hammock shaped product suspended on the carer's torso to a length of material wrapped around the carer's body. Because of this wide variety of designs, which in many cases can result in an unstructured product, it has proven very difficult to draft a safety standard similar to that for EN 13209-2, *Child use and care articles — Baby carriers — Safety requirements and test methods — Part 2: Soft carrier*.

These guidelines have been drafted to address potential hazards associated with slings. Where there are similar hazards to those associated with soft carriers, these have been identified. Any requirements and test methods which are given in EN 13209-2 and are appropriate to slings are detailed in Annex A. Any other requirements and test methods from other standards which are also appropriate to slings have also been included in Annex A.

The bibliography contains a list of standards that have been considered when drafting this Technical Report.

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1 Scope

This Technical Report covers a product which is designed to carry a child solely on the carer's torso, which does not have integrated openings for the child's limbs and is designed to allow the carer a hands-free operation when standing and/or walking.

An integrated leg opening is an opening for the child's legs which exists in the product prior to installation on the carer's torso. A leg opening which is formed when the carer wears the product is not an integrated opening.

Children's slings are not covered by EN 13209-1 and EN 13209-2.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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

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

EN 13209-2, *Child use and care articles — Baby carriers — Safety requirements and test methods — Part 2: Soft carrier*

EN ISO 14184-1, *Textiles — Determination of formaldehyde — Part 1: Free and hydrolysed formaldehyde (water extraction method) (ISO 14184-1)*

3 Chemical hazards

Harmful toxic chemicals can enter a child's body by ingestion and inhalation. Information detailing chemical hazards and their risk to young children can be found in CEN/TR 13387:2004, Clause 2.

The chemical hazards and risks for a sling are very similar to those of a soft carrier. Subclause A.1.1 states the requirements given in EN 13209–2, which are used to address the hazards related to the ingestion of harmful chemicals by a child. Subclause A.1.2 references the test method which is used to determine the toxic content of these chemicals.

EN 13209-2 does not address the hazard of inhalation of formaldehyde. As slings may envelop the child, the level of formaldehyde in the materials used should be controlled. Subclause A.1.3 references the standard which details the requirements and test methods for the assessment of the level of formaldehyde.

4 Thermal hazards

Thermal hazards include hazards associated with flammability, the burning characteristics of materials and overheating (hyperthermia) or exposure of a child to very low temperatures (hypothermia).

As slings may be used by the carer in and around the home, possibly near a naked flame, the flammability of the materials used in slings and their burning characteristics should be controlled. Subclause A.2.1 gives the requirements for the rate of spread of the flame and references the standard which details the test method.

Materials with a surface pile may be subject to surface flash which could occur if cigarette ash or a spark lands on the sling. Subclause A.2.2 references the standard which details the requirements and test methods to assess surface flash.

Overheating or hyperthermia, is a rise in the child's core temperature. This could occur if the child becomes too hot particularly in a sling which encompasses the child's body. Consideration should be given to the type of

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