PD CEN/TR 17202:2018

BSI Standards Publication

Furniture - General safety guidelines - Entrapment of fingers

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National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of CEN/TR 17202:2018.

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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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European foreword

This document (CEN/TR 17202:2018) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 207 “Furniture”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

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Introduction

This document is a non-normative CEN publication which provides guidance information on the common hazards that should be taken into consideration when developing safety standards for furniture.

They have been drawn up by a working group of experts set up by CEN/TC 207 with the prime objective of harmonizing the approach to hazard, risk assessment and injury prevention. These guidelines give recommendations on preventative measures to avoid injuries that could be caused by furniture.

The standards developed by CEN/TC 207 cover a wide range of users, including vulnerable group such as children and the elderly. Furniture is a group that has large variations between different products, however, many safety hazards associated with this diverse group of products are very similar. These guidelines identify many of these safety hazards and give details that enable similar safety principles to be applied to the drafting of standards across the group of products.

The information given in these guidelines reflects the state of the art at publication. Standards and regulations will continuously be developed. Other sources may also provide useful information for the reader.

How to use this guideline

The safety recommendations and test methods given are intended to give guidance and to lead to consistency when writing safety standards for furniture. It is recommended to use these guidelines when drafting standards.

The safety recommendations detailed do not constitute an exhaustive set that can be applied to all furniture products. The application to particular products should be evaluated by experts.

In these guidelines rationales are given to explain the potential hazard. Wherever possible, recommendations, test equipment and test methods are given which can be used when drafting standards. The terminology in these guidelines is not the one required for standards: the word *'shall'* is meant to be used in standards, not *'should'* as given in these guidelines.

CEN/TC 207 is, wherever possible when writing new standards or revising existing standards, drafting their standards on a hazard based format.

This document should enable working groups to draft their standards in a hazard based format by proceeding in the following way:

— identification of the hazards and assessment of the risk;

— definition of the recommendations to address an identified hazard and risk;

— definition of relevant test methods to check that the recommendations are met;

— provision of an Annex which contains anthropometric data for the inclusion of the recommendations.

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1 Scope

This document, contains the general safety philosophy, a guideline on the safety assessment that experts are recommended to use when drafting standards and guidance on specific general safety recommendations, and test methods, relating to hazards caused by holes and openings that are common to all types of furniture.

The Technical Report contains guidance that is intended to be used by designers and manufacturers to assess any inherent risk within their products.

The Technical Report is intended to address common risks posed by items of furniture to adults and children over 36 months old. For products designed for children under 36 months attention is drawn to CEN/TR 13387 series of documents.

Safety risks addressed by this document are hazards caused by holes and openings and specifically:

— entrapment of fingers;

— shearing or compression/crushing of fingers;

— sharp edges.

Safety risks not addressed by this document, because they are considered outside of the scope of this report and associated with specific product types, but can be caused by holes and openings include:

— entrapment of head and neck;

— entrapment of limbs;

These guidelines do not cover all types of hazards and risks, such as inappropriate use of products, or inadequate supervision of children.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring that all other potential hazards relevant to the product e.g. stability, strength and the effects of electrical power etc., are fully addressed in the process of standards writing.

This document has one Annex:

Annex A (informative) – Anthropometric data.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
harm
injury or damage to the health of people, or damage to property or the environment

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3.2
hazard
potential source of harm

3.3
hazard characterisation
quantitative evaluation of the nature of the adverse health effects following exposure to a risk source(s)

3.4
hazard identification
identification of a risk source(s) capable of causing adverse effect(s)

3.5
intended use
use in accordance with information provided together with a product

3.6
risk
combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

Note 1 to entry: The probability of occurrence includes the exposure to a hazardous situation, the occurrence of a hazardous event, and the possibility to avoid or limit the harm.

3.7
risk analysis
systematic use of available information to identify hazards and to estimate the risk

3.8
risk assessment
overall process comprising a risk analysis and a risk evaluation

Note 1 to entry: In practical terms this means the evaluation, including the identification of the related uncertainties, of the likelihood and severity of an adverse effect(s) following exposure under defined means to a risk source(s).

3.9
risk evaluation
procedure based on the risk analysis to determine whether tolerable risk has been exceeded

4 General safety

Safety is often a balance between being safe from injury and the other demands of an item of furniture, for example, ensuring that the item is fit for purpose as well as meeting consumers' needs and expectations.

Attention should be paid to:

— the intended users of the product, i.e. adults, children;

— the intended and foreseeable use of the product, bearing in mind that many products can be used in environments where both children and adults are present.

Items of furniture should be designed to be safe. Hazards should be eliminated wherever possible. For cases where a hazard cannot be eliminated or sufficiently minimized – by design or safeguards – product related information should be given. However product related information should not be used as an alternative to safe design.

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