
Embalaža za farmacevtske proizvode, ki se ne zapira ponovno in je varna za otroke - Zahteve in preskusni postopki

Child-resistant non-reclosable packaging for pharmaceutical products - Requirements and testing

Kindergesicherte, nichtwiederverschließbare Verpackungen für pharmazeutische Produkte - Anforderungen und Prüfungen

Emballage à l'épreuve des enfants, non refermables pour produits pharmaceutiques - Exigences et essais

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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: EN 14375:2003

ICS:

11.120.01	Farmacija na splošno	Pharmaceutics in general
55.020	Pakiranje in distribucija blaga na splošno	Packaging and distribution of goods in general
97.190	Otroška oprema	Equipment for children

SIST EN 14375:2004

en

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EUROPEAN STANDARD
NORME EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 14375

November 2003

ICS 11.120.01; 55.020; 97.190

English version

**Child-resistant non-reclosable packaging for pharmaceutical
products - Requirements and testing**

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produits pharmaceutiques - Exigences et essais

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für pharmazeutische Produkte - Anforderungen und
Prüfungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 1 September 2003.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Management Centre or to any CEN member.

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 Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

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Foreword

This document (EN 14375:2003) 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 2004, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2004.

Annexes A and C are informative.

Annex B is normative.

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

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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 child-resistant 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 child-resistant 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 should 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.

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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.

This standard aims to minimize 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 can be reduced. Future development of standards based on mechanical test methods is needed 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 medicinal products out of the reach of children.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies performance requirements and methods of test for non-reclosable packaging that have been designated child-resistant. This standard is intended for type approval only (see 3.5) and is not intended for quality assurance purposes.

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text, and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

EN 862:2001 *Packaging - Child-resistant packaging - Requirements and testing procedures for non-reclosable packages for non-pharmaceutical products.*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this European Standard, the terms and definitions given in EN 862:2001 and the following apply.

3.1

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

3.2

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

3.3

substitute product

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

NOTE This is sometimes referred to as a placebo product.

3.4

unit dose

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

3.5

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

4 Requirements

4.1 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 (see 4.2.1) and a satisfactory level of accessibility to its contents by adults (see 4.2.2).

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A non-reclosable child-resistant package, in addition to conforming to the performance requirements specified in this standard (see 4.2), shall be appropriate for the contents, provide mechanical protection and function properly for the life of the content and packaging.

Manufacturers, component manufacturers, fillers and packers of such packages shall initiate and operate procedures to control the quality of packaging materials so that type approved packaging is in accordance with the requirements of this standard.

NOTE EN ISO 9001 specifies requirements for quality management systems where organizations need to demonstrate their capability of supplying conforming products to customers.

4.2 Performance requirements**4.2.1 Child test**

An individual child test shall be considered a failure in relation to unit, strip or blister packages if within 10 min the child accesses more than 8 unit doses from the packaging provided.

When tested in accordance with 5.3.2 and evaluated in accordance with 5.4.1.3, the packaging shall be deemed to be child-resistant.

NOTE The figure of eight units is based on existing national standards published by certain CEN members and does not address the issue of toxicity. Some pharmaceutical products on the market can cause harm to children by the ingestion of fewer than eight units. However, reliable data on child toxicity exists for few pharmaceutical products. A harmful dose can be established for some existing pharmaceutical products and a maximum safe dose can be established for all pharmaceutical products by one means or another. Such information is not currently available for all products and there is no central register where this information could be held. In the absence of European legislation on this topic the drafters of this European Standard acknowledge these concerns and believe that research and collection of data should continue with a view to considering the substitution of a toxicity based pass/fail criterion for the child panel test in a later revision.

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4.2.2 Adult test

When tested in accordance with 5.3.3.2, at least 90 % of the adults shall be able to access at least 1 unit dose within the 1 min test period, without a demonstration.

NOTE To minimise the exposure of children to unnecessary testing the adult test should be carried out before the child test.

5 Testing**5.1 Principle**

Type approval for non-reclosable child-resistant packaging is obtained by a sequential test method or full panel test for children and a full panel test for adults. A test group of up to 200 children aged 42 to 51 months is divided into pairs. Each child is given a number of non-reclosable packages to be opened by whatever means they wish to use. If a child fails to gain access within 5 min, the method of opening is demonstrated by the supervisor and the child is given a further 5 min to open the package. The results are recorded sequentially, as obtained. The package is deemed child-resistant if the trail of results on the test charts passes into the acceptance zone or if at least 80 % of the children are unable to access more than eight unit doses within 10 min and at least 85 % of the children are unable to access more than eight unit doses within the first 5 min. The package's accessibility by a test group of 100 adults is also assessed. Each adult is given a non-reclosable package, any associated opening tools and written instructions, and is allowed 5 min to familiarize themselves with the packaging. The number of adults opening the package within a 1 min test period is recorded. The package is deemed to comply with the requirements of this standard if at least 90 % of the adults are able to access at least 1 unit dose in 1 min.

5.2 Samples and sample preparation

Sufficient packages shall be produced by the proposed manufacturing process to enable a representative sample to be selected by the supervisor for testing and to provide a reserve for reference purposes. Dangerous products shall not be used to fill the package to be tested; an appropriate substitute product shall be used. The material and design of the test samples shall conform to the technical specification and they shall be representative of an average batch of original packages.

Packages for the child panel test shall be unprinted.

In every test, a new package shall be provided for each member of the test group. For both the child and adult tests, there shall be at least 10 unit doses available for each participant.

Each sample package shall be checked for integrity before the test is conducted. The packages shall be presented to the children without the outer retail packaging, giving them access to the individual unit doses.

5.3 Procedure

5.3.1 General

The test procedure is carried out in two stages:

- a) child test (see 5.3.2);
- b) adult test (see 5.3.3).

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5.3.2 Child test

5.3.2.1 Composition of child test group

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The test group shall comprise no more than 200 children aged 42 to 51 months, inclusive, with approximately equal numbers of girls and boys. As far as possible, there shall be an even distribution of ages and sexes within the panel. The children shall be selected at random and shall have no apparent physical or mental disability which might affect manual dexterity. They shall not have taken part in more than one previous test and, in that test, a packaging of a different type and design shall have been used. If a child is used for more than one test there shall be at least 4 weeks between tests. Parental or guardian consent shall be obtained before the child is used as a part of the test group. Any children having been involved in a reported poisoning accident shall be excluded from the test.

NOTE Children should be selected to represent as closely, as is reasonably possible, the different social, ethnic and cultural origins or the population as a whole, and not just of the immediate district in which the test is carried out.

5.3.2.2 Test procedure

Testing shall be carried out in the presence of a test supervisor. The child test shall take place in an environment familiar to the children.

NOTE 1 Test personnel should visit the test location beforehand and become known by the children in order to gain their confidence. Only the supervisors should be present, parents being excluded from the test.

The test shall be carried out by a sequential procedure (see 5.4.1.1 to 5.4.1.3). The number of children tested will therefore depend on the results obtained, however, the age and sex constraints specified in 5.3.2.1 shall be adhered to.

Pairs of children shall be involved in the test, each pair being monitored by one supervisor. Should a child wander off during the test, action by the supervisor shall be limited to leading the child back to its place and requesting that he or she continue the test, without any additional instruction being given concerning the opening of the package; this fact shall be included in the report (see clause 6).

NOTE 2 If desired, a number of pairs (up to five) can undertake tests in the same room at the same time, provided that arrangements are such that they cannot distract other pairs. They can adopt any attitude or position that they find convenient