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Izdelki za otroke - Smernice za varnost cul za nošenje otrok

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

Artikel für Säuglinge und Kleinkinder - Leitfaden zur Sicherheit von Babytragetüchern

Articles de puériculture - Lignes directrices pour la sécurité des écharpes porte-enfants

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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.

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

material used for the sling and to the product information which should alert the carer to the potential hazard of the child becoming too hot.

The lowering of the child's body temperature, hypothermia, is less likely to be a hazard.

5 Choking and ingestion hazards

Both choking and ingestion hazards can occur if a child puts small objects into their mouth and either attempts to swallow them or actually swallows them.

Choking occurs when a child's internal airways become blocked and their breathing is impeded. This is a serious hazard as air cannot pass into a child's lungs and irreversible brain damage can occur.

Ingestion of small objects which pass into the child's stomach can cause internal blockages.

Where possible it is preferable to avoid the use of small objects attached to the sling. If however small objects are used, they should be firmly attached to the product and there should be no possibility of them detaching and/or breaking into small pieces.

Choking and ingestion hazards have been addressed for soft carriers. Clause A.3 gives the requirements and test methods detailed in EN 13209–2 which are used to address these hazards.

6 Entrapment hazards for fingers in mesh

If a child's finger becomes stuck in an opening, the flow of blood to the finger may be reduced. Slings should be designed to eliminate openings in mesh where fingers could be trapped.

Clause A.4 gives the requirements and test method to address the hazards associated with the entrapment of a child's finger in mesh.

7 Entanglement hazards

If a child becomes entangled in a product, strangulation can occur.

Any cords, ribbons or similar parts should have their length limited so that they cannot encircle a child's neck. Clause A.5 gives the requirements and test method for the determination of the safety of the length of cords

Any loops should be sufficiently small so that they cannot pass over the child's head. Clause A.5 gives the requirements and a test method to determine the maximum size of a loop.

Monofilament threads made of a single thread of man-made fibre are so strong that they cannot be broken in use. If this type of thread becomes wound round a child's finger the blood supply could be cut off. Monofilament threads should therefore not be used in the manufacture of a sling.

Slings should not be fitted with any form of harnessing to restrain the child.

8 Suffocation hazards

If air cannot pass into a child's lungs, irreversible brain damage can occur. Suffocation can occur if a child's external airways, i.e. the nose and mouth, are blocked simultaneously. This can occur if a child's face is in contact with a material through which air cannot permeate.

The airways can also become obstructed as a result of the position of the baby in the sling or if the child's chin drops down onto their chest.

For a hammock-shaped sling, there could be the potential for the child's face to be in contact with the material of the sling, which if made of a material through which air cannot permeate could lead to a hazardous situation. It is

important therefore that the material used for a hammock-shaped sling will allow air to circulate or the sling should be designed in such a way that the airways of the child can never be obstructed.

Consideration should also be given to the permeability of the material after washing, as some materials and some detergents could block the small air spaces; it is important therefore that adequate instructions are provided to the user for any washing and cleaning so that this does not occur.

Any carrying/storage bag supplied with the product with an opening greater than 360 mm should not have a drawstring.

As for all child use and care articles, care should be taken in the use of plastic packaging. Clause A.6 gives the requirements for plastic packaging which are common to child use and care articles.

9 Structural integrity

It is important that no part of the sling should be weakened in use and always maintains the child securely. Clause A.7 gives the requirements and test methods for the testing of the structural integrity of slings.

10 Product information

10.1 General

All product information should be given in the language(s) of the country in which the sling is sold.

10.2 Marking

The sling should be marked with the following:

- the name, trademark or other means of identification of either the manufacturer, distributor, importer or retailer;

- a means of identifying the product e.g. model number or batch number;
- the minimum and maximum weight and/or the minimum and the maximum age of the child for which the sling is intended.

WARNING When using this sling, constantly monitor your child.

These markings should be permanently attached to the sling and still be legible after washing/cleaning.

10.3 Purchase information

The following information should be provided at the point of sale:

- information which gives the maximum weight of the child for which the sling is suitable should be provided at the point of sale;
- a means of identifying the product, e.g. model number or batch number.

10.4 Instructions for use

10.4.1 General

Instructions for the safe use of the sling should be provided and be headed - **'IMPORTANT! KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE'** in letters not less than 5 mm high. A statement should be included that the carer should read all the instructions before using the sling.