

BACK- GROUND

Concern through the 70s, 80s and 90s over significant levels of unexplained infant deaths while sleeping and research by the Lullaby Trust - formerly The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID) - in the UK, lead to the publication in 2009 of the British Standard BS 8510:2009 Child use and care articles – Safety of children's sleep bags – Safety requirements and test methods. Overheating (hyperthermia) of a baby is considered to contribute to SIDS.

Similar concerns across Europe lead the European Commission to issue Mandate N° M/497 in October 2011. This requested CEN to develop standards or specifications on the safety of childcare articles covering risks in the sleeping environment. Five products were included: mattresses for cots, cot bumpers, suspended beds for children, duvets for children, as well as sleep bags for children. The brief required standards to include safety requirements, test methods, and warnings and instructions for adult carers in order to address the possible hazard posed by these products. Individual standards have been developed for each of the products; EN 16781 covering children's sleep bags.

The requirements of EN 16781 build on those of the pre-existing British Standard BS 8510:2009 together with current best technology for the clothing industry.

EN 16781:2018 "Textile child care articles – Safety requirements and test methods for children's sleep bags for use in a cot" was published by CEN in August 2018.

BOLTON CONSULTANCY LTD

Is an independent consultancy offering confidential advice on textiles, textile products, clothing and consumer products. We have in-depth understanding of the processes systems and requirements needed to assure product integrity and compliance with national and international standards and legislation.

Sue Bolton is an active member of BSI, CEN and ISO committees including CEN TC 248 WG 34 which was responsible for developing EN 16781.

QUESTIONS If you have any questions on the content of this information sheet or wish to discuss any other technical matters please contact Bolton Consultancy Ltd.

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B o l t o n
C o n s u l t a n c y
L t d



CHILDREN'S SLEEP BAGS BS EN 16781:2018



EN

EN 16781:2018 is a European standard; drafted to minimize the main risks posed by products in the sleep environment of babies and young children -

The standard provides specifications for those design characteristics necessary to achieve acceptable levels of safety; as is required under general product safety legislation in the EU (Regulation (EU) 2023/988) and UK (GPSR 2005).

GPSR

GPSR (SI 2005 No 1803) in the UK, and GPSR (Regulation (EU) 2023/988) in the EU impose a general safety requirement that products are to be safe or pose the minimum of risk

- under normal and foreseeable use
- for the lifetime of the product.

They apply over and above other product regulations and to aspects of safety not otherwise covered by them.

Both impose obligations on those placing product on the market to assure that their product is safe, and this can be demonstrated through compliance with appropriate European and national legislation and standards. Where these do not exist best practice and risk assessment should be adopted.

EN 16781:2018 can be applied to children's sleep bags to give assurance of compliance with the general safety requirement. Non compliance with the standard is likely to be subject to challenge by market surveillance authorities across the EU and UK.

Scope

EN 16781:2018 applies to sleep bags which are used in the children's sleeping environment and is applicable to products for use by children up to the age that they are able to climb out of a cot - approximately 24 months.

When a child is mobile outside of a cot additional hazards need to be considered.

Coverage

The standard includes sections covering the following:

- Design Characteristics,
 - construction
 - neck openings
 - fasteners
 - labels
 - embellishments
 - fabrics and filling materials
- Mechanical and physical hazard prevention:
 - entrapment of fingers and toes
 - strangulation
 - attachment of small parts
 - cuts, puncture and abrasion.
- Chemical Hazards
- Hypothermia and hyperthermia
Thermal resistance of the bag
- Fire Hazards
Flammability of the bag and fabric
- Hygiene
 - ability to be washed
 - infestation & foreign materials
 - cleanliness of fillings
 - colour fastness
- Marking Labelling and instructions for use
- Packaging

Test Methods

EN 16781:2018 includes test methods and performance recommendations which reflect specific issues experienced in the testing of sleep bags including:

- a new test method for neck opening dimensions,
- a new test method for neck and arm opening fastening strength,
- alternative methods for finger penetration of seams; stitch length or finger probe test,
- mesh/hole penetration,
- small parts removal force,
- small parts attachment (wash) test,
- thermal resistance (adaption of ISO 5085-1).

Revision

EN 16781:2018 is under revision, with the intention that the new edition will be 'Designated' in the UK and 'Harmonised' in the EU.

BS 8510:2009

EN 16781:2018 is largely consistent with BS 8510:2009, updated to reflect current knowledge and best industry practice.

Former users of BS 8510 should be applying EN16781 as BS 8510 was withdrawn 24 Aug 2018.

The information contained in this note is believed to be accurate at the time of printing but is for information only and should not be relied upon. Reference should be made to the published standard which can be obtained from your national standards body.