

CODE OF PRACTICE

Although conventionally referred to as a standard, BS 7907:2007 is actually a "Code of Practice". This means that it is not a legal requirement, but is provided to define best practice and makes recommendations for measures necessary to achieve acceptable levels of safety under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No 1803).

GPSR

GPSR 2005: requires products to be safe or pose the minimum of risk

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

It transposes EU Directive 2001/95/EC on general product safety into UK law and applies over and above national regulations and to aspects of safety not otherwise covered by them.

The simplest route for producers and distributors to demonstrate that their product is safe is through compliance with appropriate European and national legislation and standards. Where these do not exist best practice should be adopted.

BS 7907:2007 can be applied to children's garments across Europe to give assurance of compliance with the EU Safety Directive.

SCOPE

BS 7907:2007 applies to all clothing for children up to 14 years of age, providing information on best practice on design, fabric and component selection, and assembly techniques.

COVERAGE

The code of practice includes sections on the following:

- The selection of components for children's clothing
Some components and qualities of component are unsuitable for babies less than 36 months.
- Selection of fabrics for children's clothing,
Giving consideration to age and stage of development of the child.
- Garment design
- Production best practices:
 - For the application of components such as press fasteners, buttons and so on
 - To avoid accidental contamination by sharp "foreign bodies" such as needles, loose rivets, press fasteners etc.
 - for metal detection of foreign bodies
 - wet finishing procedures which can introduce abrasive materials
- Quality control.
Recommendations for test methods and requirements for attachment of small components
- Selection of packaging for clothing
- Recommendations for store display and security tagging.

TEST METHODS

The test methods and performance recommendations have evolved since 1997 and the newer methods though still based on the toy test techniques have been modified to reflect testing of textiles - many fabrics can be easily damaged during testing which effectively invalidates the test results.

Non-grippable components cannot be tested satisfactorily by conventional tests. To cater for these a very aggressive wash method and requirement has been adopted; based on the practical experience of a number of UK test houses and clothing retailers, and studies of consumer complaints.

NEW EU TECHNICAL REPORT & STANDARDS

A European Technical Report (CEN/TR) is currently in preparation using BS 7907:2007 as its foundation.

In addition two European Standards are under development to provide test methods and specifications for:

- Security of attachment of buttons
- Security of attachment of metal mechanically applied fastenings such as press fasteners, rivets and eyelets.

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.