

## BACK- GROUND

During the 1980s a number of incidents involving children's clothing were reported in the UK; including both serious accidents and consumer perceived near accidents where no medical intervention was needed. The majority of these related to either; entrapment, of the whole child (such as by cords or strings) or of parts of the body in zips; or the insertion of detached small parts into ears, nose or mouth.

As a result a code of practice, BS 7907:1997 was drafted to provide recommendations for:

- component selection,
- security of attachment,
- garment design
- and a summary of best factory practice.

The test methods and performance recommendations were directly lifted from the then current edition of the toy safety standards.

Adoption of the 'standard' resulted in a significant reduction in the number of visits to hospital emergency departments, during a period when children's fashion had evolved rapidly with extensive garment embellishment. The Standard was revised in a new edition; BS 7907:2007 to reflect this evolution and incorporate feedback from its use.

Widespread use of BS 7907 by major brands across Europe as a means of meeting GPSD obligations in the absence of a European standard lead CEN to develop CEN/TR 16792:2014 - incorporating further developments since 2007 and lessons learned - to complement the Safety of Children's Clothing standard EN 14682:2014.

## 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.

### AFFILIATIONS

Bolton Consultancy is a member of:

- British Standards Institution
- National Children's Wear Association

**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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## MECHANICAL SAFETY OF CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

### CEN/TR 16792:2014



**Technical Report**

CEN/TR 16792:2014 is a CEN Technical Report. 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, as is required under the EU General Product Safety Directive (GPSD).

**GPSD**

Implemented as the GPSR (SI 2005 No 1803) in the UK, it 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.

CEN/TR 16792:2014 can be applied to children's garments across Europe to give assurance of compliance with the EU Safety Directive.

**Scope**

CEN/TR 16792:2014 applies to all clothing for children up to 14 years of age, providing information on best practice in design, fabric and component selection, assembly techniques, and manufacturing.

**Coverage**

The technical report includes sections covering 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, and buttons, etc,
  - to avoid accidental contamination by sharp "foreign bodies" such as needles, loose rivets, press fasteners etc,
  - for metal detection of foreign bodies,
  - for wet finishing procedures which can introduce abrasive materials,
- Quality control,  
*Recommendations for test methods and requirements for attachment of small components,*
- Recommendations for store display and security tagging.

*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.*

**Test Methods**

CEN/TR 16792:2014 includes test methods and performance recommendations which reflect specific issues experienced in the testing of textiles.

Where security of attachment test methods based on the published toy test techniques were previously used, many fabrics were easily damaged during testing and this 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 test houses and clothing retailers, and studies of consumer complaints.

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.

**BS 7907:2007**

CEN/TR 16792:2014 TR 16792 is based on BS 7907, updated to reflect current knowledge and best industry practice and most requirements are equivalent.

Users of BS 7907 should note specific changes to security of attachment, testing of small textile components, and a test for the strength of buttons.