

EN 71-1:2011 + A3 2014 Safety of Toys - Mechanical and Physical Properties



Update to the Harmonised Standards referenced in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The A3 amendment to EN 71-1 (also incorporating A1) will be required for toys new to the market as from 30 September 2014 and thus all 3 amendments (A1, A2 and A3) become harmonized at the same point in time.

The main changes in this amendment are listed below:

Paper & Paperboard

The definition of paper has been amended and a new definition has been included for paperboard.

Paper: sheet formed by irregularly intervened cellulose fibres with a mass per unit area of 400 g/m² or less.

Paperboard: sheet formed by irregularly intervened cellulose fibres with a mass per unit area over 400 g/m² excluding pressed wooden fibreboards such as medium density fibreboard (MDF), chipboard and materials with similar properties.

Paper was already included in the list of items that are exempt from the requirements of 5.1 (General Requirement for Toys for Children Under 3 years of age). Paperboard toys or parts of toys are now exempt from the requirements to test torque, tension, drop, impact, compression tests and/or soaking tests as defined in 5.1b and 5.1e. However paperboard is subject to a tension test for 5.1a, at a lower force of 25 N, in order to see if any weakly attached components that are removed during testing are small parts.

Explanation:

This is because paper has insufficient mechanical strength to cause choking hazards. Paperboard is not easy to remove through chewing, unless it is significantly wet and it therefore loses its mechanical strength and is not considered a choking hazard. Paperboard parts of toys should still not be small parts in there as received state, or after the new 25N tension test; as these would still constitute a choking hazard.

Packaging

Bags that are made from flexible plastics and are used as packaging are now exempt from the Packaging requirements as long as the areas is equal or less than 100 mm x 100 mm. The standard used to require that plastic sheeting and bags made of flexible plastics with an opening perimeter greater than 380 mm had to have a thickness measurement of more than 0.038 mm. Now the requirement is that all plastic sheeting and bags made of flexible plastics (*except those ones excluded from the scope e.g. areas less than 100 mm x 100 mm*) have to comply with the thickness requirements.

Explanation:

This is because there is considered to be a risk of suffocation from packaging that can cover the mouth and nose or the head. The restriction for bags previously focused on those that could go over the head, the new wording means that those bags that do not have a smaller opening perimeter but have sufficient area to cover the mouth and nose will need

to be compliant; thicker plastics have less risk of suffocation as they will not adhere to the face in the same manner.

Other changes

Warnings:

Under 7.1, Warnings are required to be marked in a clearly visible, easily legible and understandable and accrucible manner. The standard now includes the reference to new good practice guidance. This includes guidance about how to emphasise the warnings due to their placement, contrast colours, font type and font size.

Gauss Meter Specification:

This used to be listed as a Gauss meter capable of determining the field to an accuracy of 5 G; it is now referenced as a Gauss meter with a resolution of 5 G and capable of determining the field to an accuracy of 1.5% or better.

Fabric Exemptions:

The list of exemptions for 5.1 was clarified to state that fabric includes felt and elastic fabric. Elastic polymeric materials (e.g. rubber bands) that are not interwoven in, or sewn in to a piece of fabric material do not fall into the exemptions and are therefore subject to the general requirements of 5.1.

**Eurofins Product Testing
Services Limited
Judith Russell**

**Tel. +44 161 868 7600
Fax +44 161 868 7699
toys@eurofins.co.uk**