

## **New Version of EN 14682 *Safety of children's clothing – Cords and drawstrings on children's clothing – Specifications Released***

In December 2014, the new version of EN 14682 was published as BS EN 14682:2014. It is a European standard concerning safety of cords and drawstrings on children's clothing, mandatory in all member states of the European Union.

The 2014 version of the standard supersedes the previous version of the standard EN 14682:2007 and any conflicting national standards have to be withdrawn by June 2015 in CEN member countries.

The significant technical changes in the 2014 version of the standard are listed in the Foreword section of the standard. Some of the major issues are as below:

- Definition of "belt" has been added to differentiate from "tied belt". Also, the definition of "tied belt or sash" has been revised so that if the width of an item is less than 3 cm, it is to be considered as a cord or drawstring.
- Fringes and free ends of fixed bows are now considered as decorative cords.
- Back of the head and neck areas originally belonged to Body Zone D. In the new version of the standard, they are in Zone A.
- Definition of "three dimensional embellishment" has been added to clarify the shapes of materials allowed to be attached to a cord.

According to RAPEX (the European Union Rapid Alert System for non-food dangerous products) 2013 statistics, "clothing and textile" was the category that EU member states received the most notifications on product health and safety risks, one of the common risks identified as strangulation. Therefore, it is strongly advised that all apparel manufacturers and retailers intending to place their products in EU market understand the standard and avoid unnecessary losses.

### **Link**

2013 RAPEX facts and figures - Infographic

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers\\_safety/safety\\_products/rapex/reports/docs/a0\\_infographic\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/reports/docs/a0_infographic_en.pdf)