BACK-GROUND

During the 1980s a number of incidents involving children's clothing were reported; 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 new edition of BS 7907:2007 has a number of changes which include:

- Improved clarity, and writing style to help smaller garment makers and designers, who may have less garment technology experience
- Removal of ambiguity and conflict with BS EN 14682:2007
- Additional definitions
- Updates to reflect current proven technology and best practice.

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 & 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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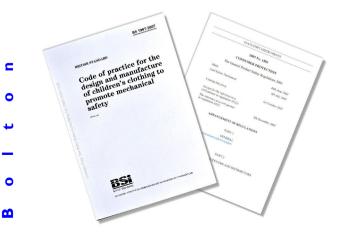
MECHANICAL SAFETY OF CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

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MECHANICAL SAFETY OF CHILDRENS CLOTHING:

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cy L	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).	со
	CRCR		
2	GPSR	GPSR 2005: requires products to be safe or pose the minimum of risk	
đ		under normal and foreseeable use	
t,		• for the lifetime of the product.	
_		It transposes EU Directive 2001/95/EC on	
3		general product safety into UK law and applies over and above national regulations	
S		and to aspects of safety not otherwise covered by them.	
2			
•		The simplest route for producers and distributors to demonstrate that their	
U		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	
2		garments across Europe to give assurance of compliance with the EU Safety Directive.	
0			
t,	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.	

VERAGE 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 REPORT & STANDARDS

A European Technical Report (CEN/TR) is TECHNICAL 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.