

IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION

**SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR
CHILDREN'S COTS**

I.S. 250: 1981

Price £3.70

INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND STANDARDS

Ballymun Road, Dublin 9.

Telegrams: Research, Dublin

Telex 25449

Telephone (01) 370101

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DECLARATION
OF
SPECIFICATION
ENTITLED
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN'S COTS
AS
THE IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN'S COTS

The Institute for Industrial Research and Standards in exercise of the power conferred by section 20 of the Industrial Research and Standards Act, 1961 (No. 20 of 1961), and with the consent of the Minister for Industry and Energy hereby declares as follows:

1. This instrument may be cited as the Standard Specification (Safety Requirements for Children's Cots) Declaration, 1981.
2. (1) The Specification set forth in the Schedule to this declaration is hereby declared to be the standard specification for Safety Requirements for Children's Cots.
(2) The said standard specification may be cited as Irish Standard 250: 1981 or as I.S. 250: 1981.

SCHEDULE

Safety Requirements for Children's Cots

1. SCOPE

This specification concerns safety requirements for children's cots of the dropside and folding dropside types, made of timber or metal. It also includes the mattress.

2. MATERIALS

2.1 Timber and Timber based materials shall be sound and free from structural defects, decay and insect attack. Timber shall be free from crossgrain.

2.2 Metal components including hardware fittings shall either be made of corrosion resisting materials, or be adequately protected against corrosion.

3. CONSTRUCTION

3.1 The frame shall be made from timber or metal. The sides and ends of the cot shall be in the form of panels of solid material or composed of filling bars or panels, made from metal, timber or timber-based materials.

The base to support the mattress shall be composed of a frame with rigid bars or a frame supporting a wire network. The base shall fit closely between the sides and ends, so as to assist in maintaining the cot rigid.

3.2 Freedom from sharp edges. The cot shall be free from sharp edges, points or burrs on which the child's body could be injured or its clothing snagged. It shall be free from holes or crevices in which the child's limbs or fingers could become trapped. There shall be no open-ended tubes with which the child could come in contact.

The tops of the sides and ends shall be preferably made flush, but, where a vertical projection is necessary, it shall not exceed 6 mm and shall be well-rounded.

3.3 Screws and Fastenings. Wood screws shall not be used for the assembly of any components that are to be removed by the user when disassembling the cot for the purposes of transportation or storage.

Any screw, fastening, or mechanism, located inside the cot shall not be capable of being adjusted except by the use of a tool, such as, a screwdriver, key or coin.

3.4 Attached decorative effects, such as, transfers, shall not be placed on the internal surfaces of the cot.

3.5 Castors. Castors, where provided, shall be fitted, either to two of the legs or to the four legs, two of the castors being fitted with a locking device.

3.6 Mattresses. The covering of the mattress shall be PVC sheeting, polyurethane coated fabric or textile material. If the filling is of fibrous material, the cover shall be of impermeable material. If a textile fabric is used, it shall not have a colour fastness rating of less than four for change in colour and less than three for staining when tested by the method described in publication ISO-105-E04-1978 "Colour Fastness to Perspiration", issued by the International Organization for Standardization, Geneva, and available at the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards.

The mattress shall be either filled with polyether type urethane foam (polyurethane foam) or fibrous material or shall be interior sprung.

Polyurethane foam used in the mattress shall have a density of not less than 17 kilogrammes per cubic metre (17 ounces per cubic foot) when tested as described in Appendix C of Irish Standard 159 : 1967 Polyether Type Urethane Foam for Cushioning.

Fibrous material shall be clean, new and unused. Spring interior mattresses shall conform to B.S. 1877 Part 10—“ Mattresses for children’s cots, perambulators and similar domestic articles ” published by the British Standards Institution, London.

4. FASTENING DEVICES

4.1 Dropside Fastening Devices. The fastening devices for the dropside of both dropside and folding dropside type cots shall be of robust construction and positive in action and shall be positioned and designed so that the child cannot lower the side unaided. This requirement shall be met in one of the following ways:

by constructing each fastening device so that two simultaneous operations are required at each end of the cot to release the dropside;

by making it necessary to lift the dropside before the fastening devices can be released;

by so positioning the fastening device that it is inaccessible to the child in the cot.

The fastening devices shall engage automatically when the dropside is raised.

4.1.1 It shall not be possible to unscrew or loosen any part of the system for guiding the dropside except with the use of a tool or other device such as a screwdriver, key or coin.

4.2 Folding dropside cots. Folding dropside cots shall be fitted with a locking mechanism which shall require positive action on the part of the user to release the device. The operating mechanism shall be out of reach of the child in the cot.

Folding dropside cots shall be so constructed that failure of the locking device will not cause the child to be trapped in the cot by the components collapsing on to the child.

5. DIMENSIONS

5.1 Overall dimensions. The length of the cot, measured along the base, which supports the mattress shall be between 1 metre and 1.4 metres.

The width of the cot, measured across the mattress base shall be 450 mm to 750 mm.

The depth of the cot, measured from the mattress support base to the upper edges of the sides and ends of the cot shall be not less than 595 mm. For a dropside cot the depth shall be measured with the side in the raised position.

5.2 Bar or slat spacing. Bars or slats in cots shall be either flat or circular in cross-section. Flat bars shall be not less than 25 mm × 9 mm in cross-section. Round bars shall be circular in cross-section and of not less than 14 mm in diameter.

For cots with flat bars, the clear distance between the bars shall be not more than 75 mm.

For cots with round bars, the clear distance between the bars shall be not more than 60 mm.

If the bars or slats are designed to be non-uniform in cross-section, the difference between the maximum widths of any member shall not exceed 2 mm. The distance between the centre lines of bars or slats or distance between panels shall not vary by more than 2 mm.

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