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I.S. EN 14960:2013

Inflatable play equipment - Safety requirements and test methods

I.S. EN 14960:2013

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Foreword

This document (EN 14960:2013) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 136 “Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2014, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2014.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 14960:2006.

In relation to EN 14960:2006, the following main changes have been made:

- changes with regard to the run outs on slides to correct one area where the contents of the original standard proved debatable;
- minor amendments to improve safety aspects together with facilitating clarity of interpretation;
- minor editing to improve the content accuracy of the document;
- amendments reflecting the changes with regard to entrapment as a result of the revision and re-issue of EN 1176 in 2008.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Introduction

Play is the means by which children discover and understand the world in which they live and is an essential element in a child's physical and mental growth.

It is important for children's rounded development that, through play, they arrive at an understanding of danger, which provides a basis for assessing safety in a variety of situations. The balance between challenge and safety is an important consideration.

The inflatable play equipment referred to in this standard can provide different levels of challenge and excitement. This European Standard aims to minimise the level of risk and the possibility of serious injury while allowing children to enjoy themselves when playing in or on inflatable equipment.

This standard acknowledges the difficulties of addressing safety issues by age criteria alone because the ability to handle risk is based on the individual user's level of skill and not age. Moreover, users other than the intended age range will make use of the inflatable equipment, in which case, the provisions of this standard still apply.

It is not the purpose of the requirements of this standard to affect a child's need to play nor to lessen the contribution that inflatable play equipment makes either to the child's development or meaningful play from an educational point of view.

Where inflatable play equipment is combined with other items of children's playground equipment, the relevant standards applying to the other items of equipment should also be consulted.

1 Scope

This European Standard is applicable to inflatable play equipment intended for use by children fourteen years and under both individually and collectively.

This standard specifies safety requirements for inflatable play equipment for which the primary activities are bouncing and sliding. It sets measures to address risks and also to minimise accidents to users for those involved in the design, manufacture and supply of inflatable play equipment. It specifies information to be supplied with the equipment. The requirements have been laid down bearing in mind the risk factor based on available data.

This standard specifies the requirements that will protect a child from hazards that he or she may be unable to foresee when using the equipment as intended, or in a manner that can be reasonably anticipated.

This standard is not applicable to inflatable water-borne play and leisure equipment, domestic inflatable toys, air-supported buildings, inflatables used solely for protection, inflatables used for rescue, or other types of inflatable toys where the primary activity is not bouncing or sliding.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 71-3, *Safety of toys — Part 3: Migration of certain elements*

EN 1177, *Impact attenuating playground surfacing — Determination of critical fall height*

EN 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP code) (IEC 60529/A1)*

EN ISO 1421:1998, *Rubber- or plastics-coated fabrics — Determination of tensile strength and elongation at break (ISO 1421:1998)*

EN ISO 2307, *Fibre ropes — Determination of certain physical and mechanical properties (ISO 2307)*

EN ISO 2411, *Rubber- or plastics-coated fabrics — Determination of coating adhesion (ISO 2411)*

EN ISO 9554, *Fibre ropes — General specifications (ISO 9554)*

EN ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)*

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