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M/236

CEN STANDARDISATION MANDATE IN THE FIELD OF TOY SAFETY
AMENDMENT OF STANDARD EN 71, PART 1
ON THE PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF OPEN-AIR
CROSSBEAMS

I. GROUNDS

This standardisation mandate belongs in the context of Council Directive 88/278/EEC of 3 May 1988¹ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the safety of toys, as amended by Council Directive 93/68/EEC of 22 July 1992.²

Pursuant to Directive 88/378/EEC toys attached to a crossbeam such as slides, suspended swings and rings, trapezes, ropes and similar toys must satisfy certain requirements in regard to their mechanical resistance and stability. The Directive covers the toy as well as its main parts, such as suspensions, fixings, anchorages, etc.

The Commission considers that the crucial function of the crossbeam means that it is a "main part" of the toy for the purposes of Directive 88/378/EEC and that therefore the crossbeam comes within the scope of this Directive.

In Standard EN 71, Part 1, the Directive's requirements gave rise to the preparation of technical specifications for the suspensions of these toys, while there is no specification concerning their crossbeams.

Hence the purpose of this mandate is to fill this gap by requesting the CEN to include crossbeams in standard EN 71, Part 1.

¹ OJ No L 187, 16.7.1988, p. 1.

² OJ No L 220, 30.8.1993, p. 1.

II. TASK DESCRIPTION

The CEN is invited to amend European Standard EN 71, Part 1 by extending it to include crossbeams of open-air toys for exclusively family use, in compliance with the text of Directive 88/378/EEC concerning the safety of toys and, notably, the essential safety requirements defined in Annex II.

To this end the CEN is invited to define performance requirements for open-air crossbeams for family use in regard to stability and mechanical resistance during utilisation that are adapted to the specific morphological and behavioural characteristics of children. The CEN is also invited to prepare the test methods as well as the requirements concerning warnings, usage instructions and maintenance.

III. PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

1. Within six months of accepting this mandate, the CEN will submit to the Commission a timetable specifying the deadlines for presenting the amendment to the standard, taking into consideration the requirements set out in this mandate.
2. The amendment to European standard EN 71, Part 1 must be accepted within the deadlines set out in the timetable. On this date the three language versions (German, English and French) must be available.
3. The "new approach" Directives make it mandatory for the Commission to publish the references to the harmonised standards in the Official Journal of the European Communities, hence conferring a presumption of conformity with the essential safety requirements of the national standards transposing the harmonised standards. With an eye to this publication, the CEN must on the date of its adoption communicate the title of the amendment to European standard EN 71, Part 1 in all official languages of the European Union.
4. The amendment to European standard EN 71, Part 1 must be transposed into a national standard and the diverging standards of the Member States of the European Union must be repealed within six months of adoption of this amendment.
5. The standstill period for the purposes of Article 7 of Council Directive 83/189/EEC of 28 March 1983 shall begin to run on acceptance of this mandate by the CEN.³

³ OJ No L 189, 26.4.1983