



WELL-INFORMED CIRCLES

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

2,600 RECALLS

Every week children's clothes are withdrawn from the market for the same reason:

"The product poses a risk of strangulation and injuries due to the presence of cords in the neck and waist areas. The product does not comply with the relevant European standard EN 14682."

Because of the high risk for young children that wear clothing with drawstrings while playing the compulsory action required by the market surveillance authorities is severe:

"Withdrawal of the product from the market, recall of the product from end users."

In the past years more than 2,600 recalls were notified via RAPEX for children's clothing with dangerous cords or drawstrings.

RAPEX is the "rapid alert system" that provides information on measures taken to prevent the marketing or use of products posing a serious risk to the health and safety of consumers in the EU.

Especially prohibited neck cords for younger children are very easy to detect by customs and market surveillance authorities. This explains why textiles still rank very high in all recall statistics.

RISK ASSESSMENT

PROSAFE (Product Safety Forum of Europe) is the organisation for market surveillance authorities in Europe. Its primary objective is to improve the safety of consumers in Europe.

PROSAFE has published a lot of information on the safety of cords and drawstrings in children's clothing. This includes a comprehensive risk assessment template and videos, you will find it when you search for "PROSAFE - Cords and Drawstrings" on the internet.

FATALITIES

The following fatal and serious accidents occurred with children due to non-compliant clothing:

- Strangulation due to fatal entrapment of hood cords on slides;
- Children being dragged along by vehicles because their waist cords got entrapped;
- Elastic hood or neck cords resulted in many injuries.

STANDARD EN 14682

EN 14682 is a harmonised standard for the General Product Safety Directive (GPSD) 2001/95/EC. The standard was published to minimise the risks of accidental and fatal entrapment by cords or drawstrings on children's clothing.

The requirements are more severe for children younger than 7 years of age (134 cm length).

For instance drawstrings, functional cords or decorative cords in the hood or neck area are **prohibited** for garments intended for young children.

EN 14682 contains requirements for decorative cords, functional cords, belts, sashes, toggles, embellishments, fixed loops, flat loops, zip pullers, adjusting tabs, shoulder straps, lower hems, elastic cords, sleeves, halter neck-style garments and garments that finish at the ankle.



ProductIP provides information that enables the supply chain to market safe, healthy and environmentally friendly products from a sustainable source.

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