



European Standardization in support of child safety

The safety of children is an absolute priority, not only for parents but for society as a whole. Standards have an important role to play in protecting children and preventing accidents. In particular, they help to ensure that products used by or with children – including clothes, furniture, toys and playground equipment – are as safe as possible.

A wide variety of products may present potential hazards to children, for example while they are playing games or practising sports. Various household appliances that are commonly found in the domestic environment can also be potentially hazardous for children.

Standardization plays a significant role in improving the safety of products that are intended for use by or with children. As official European Standardization Organizations, CEN and CENELEC aim to ensure that their standards address all possible hazards that products may pose to their most vulnerable users.

The European Commission recognizes the important role played by European Standards in promoting the safety of children. It has issued numerous official requests (or 'Mandates') to CEN and CENELEC, asking them to carry out specific standardization activities.

CEN and CENELEC develop and adopt European Standards that support child safety under the following categories: toys; nursery products and furniture; child resistant products and protective devices; and playground and sports equipment for children.

While they are developing standards in support of child safety, CEN and CENELEC take full account of relevant legislation adopted by the European Union, including the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) and the General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC).

In addition to European Standards for specific products, CEN and CENELEC have also developed and published a guide on how to include child safety in standards ([CEN-CENELEC Guide 14](#)), which is intended as a tool for experts who are drafting European Standards and other standardization deliverables.



Toys

European Standards in relation to toy safety are developed by experts in the [CEN Technical Committee 'Safety of Toys' \(CEN/TC 52\)](#) and in the [CENELEC Working Group 'Toys' \(CLC/TC 61/WG 7\)](#).

These standards respect the essential requirements of European legislation, namely the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) and specific requests from the European Commission (such as EC Mandate 445).

[CEN](#) and [CENELEC](#) have developed and adopted European Standards in relation to various aspects of toys and toy safety including: mechanical and physical properties of toys, flammability, migration of certain elements, and the presence of N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable substances in toys.

European Standards have also been produced in relation to specific types of toys including: activity toys, chemistry sets and other chemical toys, electric toys, finger paints, cosmetic kits, and games that make use of smell and taste (olfactory and gustative games).

Benefits:

- Strong safety standards, developed by experts according to a scientific approach, significantly reduce risks to children.
- Harmonized European Standards facilitate the process of assessing whether a product complies with the relevant EU legislation.
- Requirements and test methods are regularly revised in line with the latest EU legislation.



A great advantage of having harmonized European Standards is that they enable the industry to sell one version of a product throughout the whole of Europe.



Christian Wetterberg
LEGO Group – Director of External Relations
representing Toy Industries of Europe (TIE)
(Chairman of CEN/TC 52)



Nursery products and furniture

In order to ensure that babies and young children can be safe in the home environment, it is necessary to reduce risks associated with furniture and other products that are intended for use with children.

CEN's Technical Committees for 'Childcare articles' ([CEN/TC 252](#)) and 'Furniture' ([CEN/TC 207](#)) develop European Standards in relation to products and furniture that are used by or with young children during a wide range of different activities:

- Baby carriers, bouncers, safety barriers, children's harnesses and reins;
- Cribs and cradles, playpens, cots, folding cots, mattresses, carry cots and stands;
- Chairs, changing units, reclining cradles, infant swings and walking frames;
- Drinking and feeding equipment, soothers and soother holders;
- Balance-bikes, scooters and other wheeled vehicles intended for young children;
- Child seats for cycles.

Benefits:

- Incorporating safety requirements into standards contributes to improving the safety of products that are used by or with children.
- Having a common approach applied to all standards for childcare articles means that these standards are both more comprehensive and easier to use.



Investing in childcare standards is one of the most important ways to protect children. ENPC members have been involved in standards development for years, and child protection is our first priority. A lot of improvements have been made, but ENPC is looking forward to achieving even more.



Roberto Marelli
President of European Nursery Product Confederation
(ENPC)



© Pavla

Child resistant products and protective devices

Within CEN, a number of different Technical Committees and Working Groups are developing standards in relation to child-resistant products and protective devices.

The Technical Committee 'Child protective products' ([CEN/TC 398](#)) develops European Standards for various safety devices, including child-resistant locking devices for doors, windows, cupboards and drawers, as well as finger protection devices for doors.

The Working Group 'Blinds and shutters' ([CEN/TC 33/WG 3](#)) has developed a set of European Standards specifying requirements for window blinds, in order to address strangulation hazards posed to children by loosely hanging cords.

CEN's Project Committee on 'Lighters' ([CEN/TC 355](#)) has developed a European Standard specifying safety requirements and test methods for Child-resistance for lighters (EN 13869:2002+A1:2011).

The Working Group 'Safety of children's clothing' ([CEN/TC 248/WG 20](#)) developed a European Standard on cords and drawstrings on children's clothing (EN 14682:2007).

Benefits:

- Standards on child resistance and protective devices are the best way to eliminate hazards potentially posed by common-use or household products.
- Standards developed in line with [CEN-CENELEC Guide 14](#) contribute to reducing risks of injury associated with various products and services.

▮▮ *Young children have a natural curiosity. They, and their parents, are often unaware of the dangers they face. We are confident that these standards, with which ANEC has been closely involved, will protect them from hazards associated with common household products.*



Stephen Russell
Secretary-General of ANEC, the European consumer voice in standardization



© YanLev

Playground and sports equipment for children

Playground and sports equipment falls within the scope of the European Union's General Product Safety Directive (2009/95/EC). In recent years, CEN has received a number of requests (or 'mandates') from the European Commission to develop standards in relation to specific types of equipment.

CEN's Technical Committee on 'Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment' ([CEN/TC 136](#)), and its sub-committee on 'Playground equipment for children' (CEN/TC 136/SC 1) have developed European Standards for various products such as playground equipment and surfacing, floating leisure articles and kick-scooters.

Meanwhile, the CEN Technical Committee 'Cycles' ([CEN/TC 333](#)) has developed European Standards for 'Bicycles for young children' (EN ISO 8098:2014) and 'BMX bicycles' (EN 16054:2012).

Benefits:

- European Standards help to prevent accidents and injuries, whilst ensuring an appropriate balance between safety and other considerations (such as children's development and enjoyment).
- Standards provide assurance to consumers that products purchased in Europe comply with safety benchmarks that are widely recognized.

▮▮ *European Standards for Playground Equipment provide an essential benchmark tool to guide the providers of play space installations, as well as their operators for inspection and maintenance. We are glad to see that these standards are being widely applied.*



Andrew Yates
Federation of Sports and Play Associations (UK)
(Chairman of CEN/TC 136/SC 1)

How to get involved

Participation in the standardization process allows stakeholders to have a say on the content of draft standards, and enables them to be better informed about developments relating to standards that may be relevant to their area of interest or sector of activity.

Companies, public bodies and other (national) organizations wishing to participate in CEN or CENELEC activities should contact the CEN Member (National Standardization Organization - NSO) or CENELEC Member (National Committee - NC) in their country. Through the NSO or NC, they can participate in the national mirror committee which is responsible for providing input to the relevant Technical Committee (TC) at European level.

A full list of CEN Members can be found on the CEN website: www.cen.eu

A full list of CENELEC Members can be found on the CENELEC website: www.cenelec.eu

European or international organizations and other stakeholders wishing to participate in standardization activities at European level may apply to become a Partner or Liaison Organization of CEN and/or CENELEC. For further information, please contact: partners@cencenelec.eu

About CEN and CENELEC



The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) are officially recognized by the European Union (EU Regulation 1025/2012) as European Standardization Organizations (ESOs) responsible for developing and defining standards at European level.

The Members of CEN and CENELEC are, respectively, the National Standardization Organizations and National Committees of 33 European countries including all of the EU member states, three EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

CEN and CENELEC and their respective Members work with various stakeholders – including industry, SMEs, consumers and other societal stakeholders, public sector bodies, academics and researchers – to develop voluntary European Standards (ENs) and other standardization deliverables.

CEN works in partnership with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and CENELEC collaborates with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), in order to coordinate their respective standardization activities and enable the alignment of European and international standards.

CEN – European Committee for Standardization

CENELEC – European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization

Avenue Marnix 17 – 1000 Brussels – Belgium | info@cencenelec.eu

www.cen.eu | www.cenelec.eu | www.cencenelec.eu