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New Edition of BS 3084 Slide Fasteners (Zips) Specification

A complete review of the specification for slide fasteners (zips) has taken place, taking into account current user needs and safety issues. This latest edition, BS 3084:2006, has just been published.

New Test Added

The most significant change is the addition of a new test method, “*Open-end fastener single stringer slider retention.*” This is in direct response to a safety issue. Numerous incidents have occurred where, when a garment is worn with the zip unfastened, it has been possible for the slider and puller component to be pulled past the single top stop and be completely removed from the zip.

This is of particular relevance to children’s garments, and BS 3084 is specifically referred to in BS 7907:1997 “The Design and Manufacture of Children’s Clothing to Promote Mechanical Safety”

End Use Classification

BS 3084 classifies zip fasteners into categories according to their proposed end use.

Performance code	End use
A	Dresses, knitwear, light leather goods
B	Dresses, knitwear, light leather goods, skirts, jeans, trousers, upholstery
C	Knitwear, skirts, jeans, trousers, upholstery, lingerie, jackets, overalls, luggage, slippers, sleeping bags, lightweight and inner tents
D	Coats and jackets, luggage, sleeping bags, lightweight and inner tents, footwear, leather garments, ski clothes
E	Luggage, footwear, wet suits, awnings and frame tents

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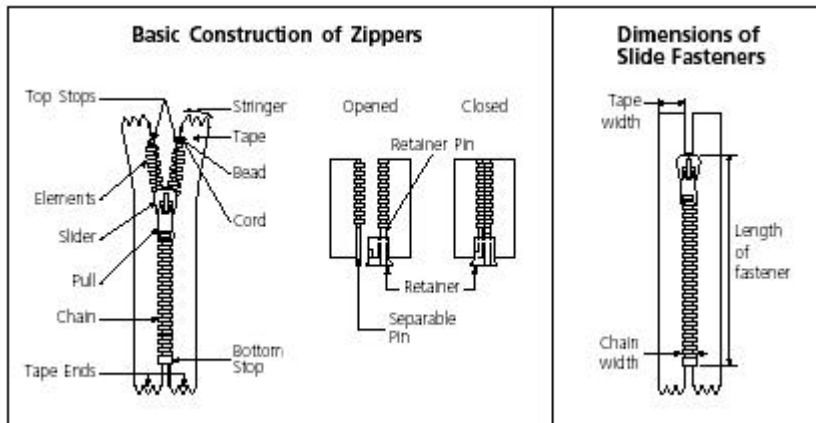
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Testing Zip Components

Individual test methods are specified to enable the various components of the zips to be assessed for fitness for purpose. The various components of zips are shown below.



BS 3084 gives minimum performance requirements for each of the different tests, based on the end use categories. The tests listed have been devised with a view to giving reasonable assurance that a zip fastener conforming to these requirements can satisfactorily fulfil its intended purpose.

Test	Code A	Code B	Code C	Code D	Code E	Units
Puller attachment strength	70	80	200	250	300	Newtons
Closed end strength	35	60	80	100	140	Newtons
Top stop strength	50	70	90	110	140	Newtons
Open end fastener box strength	40	70	90	120	150	Newtons
Reciprocation (minimum cycles without failure)	500	500	500	500	500	cycles
Lateral strength	150	200	250	370	470	Newtons
Lateral strength of open end attachment	40	70	90	120	160	Newtons
Slider locking device strength	10	15	25	40	60	Newtons
Single stringer slider retention	Not applicable	60	70	90	120	Newtons

Intertek Labtest is able to offer testing to BS 3084 at several of its locations.

If you have any queries about the information in this article, please contact Linda Gallagher on +44 (0)116 263 9605 or by email at linda.gallagher@intertek.com

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