Legislative Update: New European Standard EN 14682

Safety of Children’s Clothing - Cords and Drawstrings on Children’s Clothing - Specifications

On the 8th of February, the European Committee responsible for directive 2001/95/EC met and discussed the CEN/TC 248 request to have an 18 month transitional period before market enforcement effectively takes place.

A briefing document has been received relating to their comments and decision, reading as follows:

“Several member states expressed that 18 months was a rather long time and that 12 months could be more appropriate. It was also stated that textiles have to be anyhow “safe” products, in line with directive 2001/95/EC, and that therefore, the publication of this standard should not have influence on today’s business practices. Moreover, as this standard was the result of a mandate, given several years ago, textile industry and textile trade were aware that something was coming and could prepare themselves. For all these reasons, the general feeling was that the standard can already be used now.

Regarding the publication of EN 14682:2004 in the OJEC, it was noted that the standard is not in the current second draft list of standards for publication in the OJEC. But if member states wanted, EN 14682:2004 could still be included in that second list, to be published in the OJEC in the next months.

It was also noted that some years ago, a similar request was made by CEN/TC 252 “child use and care articles”, for EN 1888. But also there, the member states did not accept a transitional period.

To conclude, it was decided that the member states would not grand a transitional period of 18 months before effective market enforcement takes place.”

As a consequence, following publication in the Official Journal, trading standards and similar European Enforcement bodies, will be able to seek prosecution against articles which do not comply with the requirements of the new standard.

Should you have any query on the above news, please email: i.tex@intertek.com