

# SPARKLE

## New European Flammability Standard, EN 14878:2007 “Textiles - Burning Behaviour of Children’s Nightwear – Specification”

### What’s the background to the new standard?

As long ago as 1997, a mandate was issued to CEN to carry out a feasibility study on possible standardisation on fire resistance of nightwear. After many years of discussions and disagreements, the standard has finally been published. Its full title is:

**EN 14878:2007 “Textiles – Burning Behaviour of Children’s Nightwear – Specification”**

It contains test requirements that enable various categories of nightwear to be classified; also information about garment design. One key thing to note is that this standard does not apply to adult nightwear, despite this being the original intention of the CEN mandate.

### What products does the standard cover?

The standard applies to children’s nightwear. It defines nightwear as

“Garments that are either sold as nightwear or intended to be worn as nightwear, e.g. bathrobes, dressing gowns, nightshirts, nightdresses and pyjamas.”

It does not apply to babies’ nightwear (intended to be worn by babies up to 6 months old, height up to 68cm).

### What test method is used?

Measurement of time of flame spread and surface flash is carried out using the test procedures in **EN 1103:2005 “Textiles – Fabrics for apparel – Detailed procedure to determine the burning behaviour”** but without the washing procedure.

### How are the various nightwear categories classified?

The requirements are as follows:

Class	Application	Parameters to be measured	Minimum requirements
A	Children’s nightwear (not pyjamas)	Surface flash	No surface flash
		Time of flame spread	3 <sup>rd</sup> marker thread (520mm) not severed in less than 15 seconds
B	Children’s pyjamas	Surface flash	No surface flash
		Time of flame spread	3 <sup>rd</sup> marker thread (520mm) not severed in less than 10 seconds
C	Babies’ nightwear	Not tested	Not tested

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#### Disclaimer

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**What labelling is required?**

The standard does not require labelling of products.

**What is the legal position?**

EN 14878 is not itself legislative. For products where flammability is considered to be a risk, the EU General Product Safety Directive would expect this standard to be used to assess that risk.

**What if the products are intended to be sold in the UK?**

Annex C of EN 14878 carries what is called an "A-deviation". This records any national deviations from the standard due to the existence of national regulations.

EN 14878 carries an A-deviation on behalf of the United Kingdom, where parts of the new standard are less stringent than the requirements of the existing UK Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985.

In the UK, the UK Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985 will take priority over EN 14878.

Products subject to the requirements of the UK regulations include nightdresses and dressing gowns, and these products will continue to be tested in accordance with the UK regulations.

EN 14878 will apply only to those items of babies' and children's nightwear that are not already subject to the requirements of the UK Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985.

These will include

- Nightwear for babies up to age 3 months
- Pyjamas
- Bathrobes

Guidelines to the UK Nightwear Regulations are available as a download on the UK Department of Trade and Industry website at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file25421.pdf>

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