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Hardlines

## EU Moves to Restrict Use of Acrylamide

The European Commission (EC) has published a regulation<sup>1</sup> amending Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation to restrict the use of acrylamide from 6 November 2012 onwards.

The new regulation forbids the sale of acrylamide (CAS No: 79-06-1) on the EU market and also restricts the use of the chemical for grouting applications in concentrations of more than 0.1% by weight.

Acrylamide is classified as a carcinogenic and mutagenic substance and is toxic to neurological and reproductive systems. In 2004, the EC recommended that the use of the substance be restricted in building applications after research showed that using acrylamide-based grouts in construction can contaminate environmental water.

### Next steps for manufacturers

Manufacturers currently using acrylamide grout in small and large-scale applications will need to review their current processes to determine if their products meet the new requirements. It may be necessary to study the suitability of non-acrylamide based grouts such as urethane, although this may require modifications to production processes and schedules.

<sup>1</sup> See the amendment in the EU Official Journal at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:101:0012:0013:EN:PDF>



Businesses are also encouraged to contact TÜV SÜD to see how we can help ensure their compliance with the new regulation. Manufacturers can rely on our third-party testing and certification services to demonstrate that their products comply with the new acrylamide limits. ■

Hardlines and Toys & Children's Products

## CPSC Publishes Corrections to Toddler Bed Safety Standard

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has published a correction<sup>1</sup> to its recently-released Toddler Beds safety standard<sup>2</sup> (16 CFR 1217) to restore missing sections to the standard. The three corrections are made towards the end of the standard, before Figure 11:

- **Addition of Section 1217.2(c)(6)(iii) 8.4.4:** Toddler beds that convert from a full-size crib, also known as convertible cribs, must meet the warning requirements specified in section 8 of ASTM F 1169–10, instead of the requirements of 8.4.3. See 16 CFR Part 1219 for complete requirements for full-size cribs.

<sup>1</sup> See the correction notice in full at <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/frnotices/fr11/toddlerbedcorr.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> See TÜV SÜD Essentials Volume #25 at [https://www.tuv-sud.in/APMKT/pdffile/Softlines\\_E-ssentials\\_v25\\_05-2011.pdf](https://www.tuv-sud.in/APMKT/pdffile/Softlines_E-ssentials_v25_05-2011.pdf). Or, download the complete Safety Standard for Toddler Beds (16 CFR Part 1217) from <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-9421.pdf>

- **Addition of Section 1217.2(c)(6)(iv) 8.4.5:** Any toddler bed that can convert from a full-size crib, and has the warning specified in section 8.1.3 of ASTM F 1169–10, must include additional text at the end of that warning that specifies the minimum mattress thickness of 4 inches (100 mm). See 16 CFR Part 1219 for complete requirements for full-size cribs.

- **Addition of Section 1217.2(c)(7):** In addition to Figure 10 of ASTM F 1821–09, use the following: (*Followed by Figure 11 – Guardrail Structural Integrity Test*).

Manufacturers should take note of these corrections in preparation for the 20 October 2011 deadline when this new safety standard goes into effect. ■

Softlines

# Europe Harmonises Cord and Drawstring Requirements for Children's Clothing



Since September 2007, the standard EN 14682:2004 related to children's apparel products with cords and drawstrings was superseded by the EN 14682:2007 standard adopted by CEN. However, the reference of the standard was not published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The European Commission has recently replaced the EN 14682:2004 standard for children's apparel products with cords and drawstrings with the EN 14682:2007<sup>1</sup> reference standard. The new standard also clarifies the requirements for cords and drawstrings in children's garments and includes explanatory drawings. Between August 2008 and February 2010, a survey<sup>2</sup> of over 16,000 garments by the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe (PROSAFE) in collaboration with 11 EU member states found that over 13% of products do not conform with the new standard's requirements. About 69% of the items inspected were intended for babies and young children, many of which were reported to the EC Consumer Affairs' division via the RAPEX rapid alert system<sup>3</sup>.

The EN 14682:2007 standard harmonises the cord and drawstring requirements across all EU member states and it has been published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union. It replaces EN 14682:2004 effective immediately.

<sup>1</sup> Read the Decision in full at [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:082:0008:0009:E\\_N\\_PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:082:0008:0009:E_N_PDF)

<sup>2</sup> Download the full PROSAFE technical report from [http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/docs/cords\\_drawstrings\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/docs/cords_drawstrings_report_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See the RAPEX archives at [http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/rapex\\_archives\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/rapex_archives_en.cfm)

One of the objectives of PROSAFE's study was to discover the share of non-compliant clothing that is produced in Europe versus clothing that is imported into the continent. However, the results showed that it is hard to distinguish between the two. Poor labelling practices make it difficult to trace the items back to their producers, particularly for clothes that are imported or manufactured in small numbers by local operators. Moreover, several big European brand names outsource their products outside the EU. This means that clothes from apparently European producers are actually imported from manufacturers in other countries such as China and India.

PROSAFE's report also collected evaluations of the EN 14682:2007 standard from participants. The observations were compiled in a document entitled "Grey zones in EN 14682" that was presented to the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

## How TÜV SÜD can help

The CEN is currently working on a new revision of the EN 14682 standard (CEN/TC248/WG20). In the meantime, manufacturers and importers of children's apparel in Europe are advised to speak to a TÜV SÜD expert to see how our third-party testing services can help ensure their products' safety. We can also help clarify the products' labelling and product marking requirements to ensure that they comply to the harmonised EN 14682:2007 European standard. ■

Hardlines and Toys & Children's Products

# CPSC Revises Bicycle Requirements



The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has made several amendments<sup>1</sup> to its safety requirements for bicycles to address recent technological advances and designs while clarifying some ambiguous and confusing provisions (see Table A). The changes will take effect on 13 June 2011.

## More changes to come

As of August 2010, all bicycles sold in the U.S. for children under 12 are required to undergo third-party testing and certification according to 16 CFR 1512, while bicycle models with non-quill-type stems are excluded from certifying compliance to 16 CFR 1512.6(a) (Handlebar stem insertion mark). However, the CPSC has said that it intends to undertake a comprehensive review of its bicycle regulations to determine how they might be further amended to address recent changes in bicycle technology, material and design.

<sup>1</sup> Read the amendment in full at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-05-13/pdf/2011-11742.pdf>

**Table A: Amended parts of 16 CFR 1512**

<b>Part 1512.2 Definitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1512.2 (b) Sidewalk bicycle;</li> <li>■ 1512.2 (d) Track bicycle;</li> <li>■ 1512.2 (g) Recumbent bicycle (New addition).</li> </ul>
<b>Part 1512.4 Mechanical Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1512.4 (b) Sharp edges;</li> <li>■ 1512.4 (i) Control cable ends.</li> </ul>
<b>Part 1512.6 Requirements for Steering System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1512.6 (a) Handlebar stem insertion mark;</li> <li>■ 1512.6 (c) Handlebar.</li> </ul>
<b>Part 1512.12 Requirements for Wheel Hubs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1512.12 (b) Quick-release devices.</li> </ul>
<b>Part 1512.15 Requirements for Seat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1512.15 (a) Seat limitations;</li> <li>■ 1512.15 (b) Seat post.</li> </ul>
<b>Part 1512.18 Tests and Test Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1512.18 (k)(1)(i) Procedure for fork test;</li> <li>■ 1512.18 (n)(2)(vii) Reflector performance test.</li> </ul>

TÜV SÜD can help ensure that manufacturers' products comply to these new requirements. Our experts can also advise businesses on the likely direction of future amendments to the requirements to help plan for future products. ■

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