

SEATING FOR CHILDREN: EN 17191 EXPECTED IN EARLY 2021

Many accidents happen inside the home, and quite a few of them involve furniture. Very often children are involved too. Most of these accidents are avoidable and here are some simple, easy steps to help you avoid them. Choose your furniture wisely, with quality and safety in mind, especially when you have small children or grandparents at home. So many accidents can be prevented in this way.

A new standard draft, **EN 17191:2019**, has been prepared by CEN to cover hazards linked to seating for children. It is expected to become a harmonized standard in early 2021. This may affect the design of the chairs.

EN 17191 will replace all conflicting national standards, therefore will replace NFD60-300 parts 1 and 2 in France. However, Part 1 will still be valid as it provides safety requirements for all kind of furniture for children.

This new standard covers all types of seating intended for children as soon as they are able to walk and sit by themselves, meaning, around 18 months, including, for example, chairs, benches, stools, bean bags, deckchairs, rocking chairs, reclining chairs, armchairs, foldable chairs etc. for indoor and outdoor use.

Moreover, all potential hazards had been taken into account in the standard:

TYPES OF HAZARD

Mechanical (ie. Entrapment, Moving parts, Lids, Entanglements, Choking and Ingestion Suffocation)

Flammability

Chemical (ie. 19 Heavy Metals Elements)

The general safety requirements set in both EN 17191 and NFD60-300 parts 1 and 2 are fairly similar and the safety levels are very close. However, there are some additional requirements in EN 17191 such as for locking mechanisms, entanglement hazards, product information, etc.

The level for strength and durability tests under EN 1728, as well as for stability tests under EN 1022, is more stringent in the future EN 17191.



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