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STANDARD

I.S. EN 14372:2004

ICS 97.190

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CHILD USE AND CARE ARTICLES - CUTLERY AND FEEDING UTENSILS - SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND TESTS

This Irish Standard was published under the authority of the National Standards Authority of Ireland and comes into effect on:

November 12, 2004

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 14372

August 2004

ICS 97.190

English version

Child use and care articles - Cutlery and feeding utensils - Safety requirements and tests

Articles de puériculture - Couverts et vaisselle - Exigences de sécurité et essais

Artikel für Säuglinge und Kleinkinder - Besteck und Geschirr - Sicherheitstechnische Anforderungen und Prüfungen

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Foreword

This document (EN 14372:2004) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 252 “Child use and care articles”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2005, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2005.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

This document establishes minimum safety requirements and specifies appropriate test methods for children's cutlery and feeding utensils. Children's cutlery and feeding utensils are used by either the carer to feed the child or by the child itself, from the average age of weaning (6 months) to 3 years of age. Children over three years of age increasingly use cutlery and utensils designed for adults. Accordingly, this document addresses the potential hazard(s) arising from the use of cutlery and feeding utensils designed for the use of children aged up to 3 years, with or without parental supervision.

However, it is stressed that this document cannot eliminate all possible risks to young children up to 3 years of age using such products and that parental or guardian control is of paramount importance.

It is essential that the manufacturer gives all warnings and instructions specified in this document clearly, to allow the consumer to ensure the product is used correctly and safely.

A significant choking hazard can arise if components of cutlery or feeding utensils become separated during use. This hazard is addressed in this document by the inclusion of security tests.

This document also addresses the potential hazard(s) arising from the release of one or more substances, in quantities which could be considered detrimental to health, from the material(s), used in the construction of cutlery and feeding utensils.

It is noted that all plastic components of cutlery and feeding utensils are regulated by the Commission Directive 2002/72/EC [1] relating to plastics materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff.

It is further noted that Council Directive 89/109/EEC [2] approximates laws of the Member States relating to materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff. Where applicable, Council Directive 82/711/EEC [3] and related amendments (93/8/EEC and 97/48/EC) laying down the basic rules necessary for testing migration of the constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff has been applied as has Council Directive 85/572/EEC [4] relating to the list of simulants to be used for testing migration of constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff.

It is also noted that the European Parliament and Council Directive 94/27/EC [5] regulates nickel release permitted from jewellery and items in contact with the skin.

It is noted that Council Directive 84/500/EEC [6] relates to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff.

Commission Decision 99/815/EC [7] prohibits the placing on the market of toys and childcare articles made of soft PVC (containing one or more of six specific phthalate plasticisers) and which are intended to be placed in the mouth by children under three years of age.

It is recommended that manufacturers and suppliers operate to EN ISO 9001 [8] standard for quality management systems.

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