

Highchairs compliant with the standard

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The revision of EN 14988: 2017 concerning highchairs was published last February. The current document, which includes an additional sheet A1: 2020, contains some changes introduced to clarify several aspects of the previous version which were sensible to possible different interpretations.

In the following list we summarize the issues that required such clarifications or modifications:

- Evaluation of the compression points: the application of a vertical force on the tray has been added to verify the compression points between the tray and the highchair structure;
- Padding material: the requirement for the padded parts and on the verification of the gaskets/ joints has been better clarified;
- Restraint system: a requirement has been clarified regarding the active restraint system;
- Strap/belt: a modification was made to the sampling in the slippage of the restraint system;
- Stability: it has been clarified that the stability test is performed on the highchair with and without removable parts (for example the tray).
- Marking: a pictogram has been added to the marking of the product.

We would like to remember that this standard is one of the first structured with reference to the risks and for this reason it is divided into the following three parts:

- Chemical hazards;
- Thermal hazards;
- Mechanical hazards, including:
 - Hazards caused by folding of the product;
 - Hazard caused by height adjustment;
 - Entrapment hazards;
 - Hazards caused by moving parts;
 - Entanglement hazards;
 - Chocking and ingestion hazards;
 - Hazards caused by edges, corners and protruding parts;
 - Strength and durability hazards;
 - Hazards deriving from the falling of the highchair.

It is also among the first standards consisting of a single document, as it is no longer composed of a first part on requirements and a second part on test methods; this makes the standard easier to read and use.

With reference to our experience, we really hope that the highchairs placed on the market are safe products and are verified according to this standard.

In the past, in fact, there have been several accidents involving children sitting on highchairs: the analysis of such cases together with a careful assessment of all possible risks, have produced this more complex and certainly complete standard in the current version.

The EN 14988: 2017 + A1: 2020 is present in the list of standards for which CATAS is accredited by Accredia.

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