

# CHILDREN COTS. NEWS FROM THE STANDARDISATION WORLD

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The new versions of the EN 716-1 “Safety Requirements” and EN 716-2 “Test Methods” for children’s cots and folding cots will be published shortly. They will replace the current versions of standard of 2008 + A1: 2013.

As with other standards, they are linked together: part 1 describes the safety requirements and part 2 describes how to assess them.

The changes that have been made compared to the current version are the following:

- Definition of “Movable sides” and clarification of clause 4.4.8.1, requirements of movable sides.
- Modification of clause 4.4.8.2, “Distance between footholds and top of cot sides and ends”.
- Clarification of the instructions for use, clause 6.
- Addition warnings concerning to risk to add a second mattress in the bed.
- Modification of clause 7 concerning marking.



in the following lines we will try to present more details of these changes.

**Movable sides** could be sliding sides, drop sides and folding sides. In **clause 4.4.8.1** there are the requirements to apply to all the movable sides:

- a) The locking system shall fulfil the requirements of clause 4.4.6.2 and shall engage automatically when the movable side is in its lowest position, or
- b) in its lower position, the lower component of the movable side is always above the bed base or mattress base, or
- c) when the movable side is in the lower position the gap between the lower component of the movable side and the ground or any other component below is always greater than 223 mm.

This measure represents the large head size of child aged up to 36 months: its intention is to avoid the entrapment between the side and the ground.

We would like to clarify that movable sides shall satisfy only one of these requirements.

Clause 4.4.6.2: all locking system.

With the exception of the locks on castors, all locking system shall:

- a) have a residual force of at least 50 N for operation, or
- b) require at least two consecutive actions operating on different principles, the second being dependent on the first having been carried out and maintained (for example pushing the side inwards and maintained while it is lifting), or
- c) require at least two separate but simultaneous actions operating on different principles, or
- d) have two operating devices separated by a distance of at least 850 mm and required to be operated simultaneously, or
- e) require the cot base to be lifted to allow folding the cot.



The major changes are in **clause 4.4.8.2**. The standard describes how to measure the height between any foothold or base mattress and the top of sides and ends.

The minimum distance between the upper side of the mattress base and the upper edge of the cot side and end shall be at least 500 mm (this measure shall be taken under the load during the test described in clause 5.9.1 of EN 716-2:2017). With the mattress base and sides/ends in high position, the minimum vertical distance between the upper side of the mattress base and the upper edge of the cot side and end shall be at least 200 mm and the minimum distance between the top of any foothold and the upper edge of the cot side and end shall be at least 500 mm.

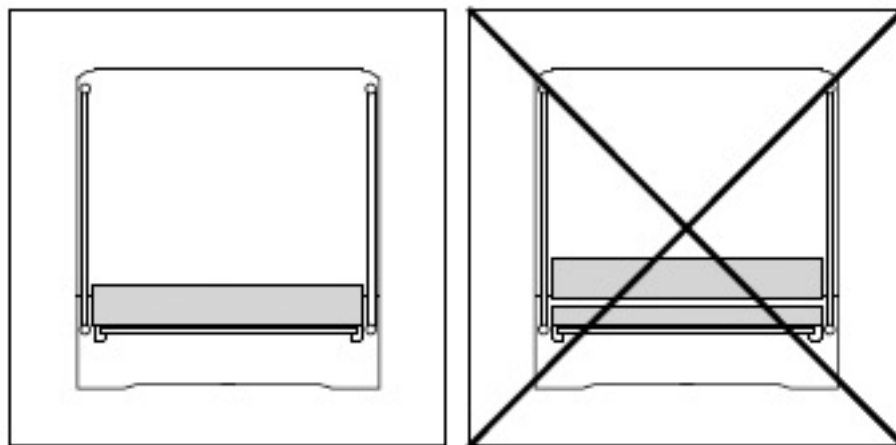
If the mattress is **NOT** an integral part of the cot, the measure shall be made from the mark of the maximum thickness of the mattress and in case that the indication of the maximum thickness of the mattress is provided by a text, the measurement shall be made taking into consideration this information.

In the **instruction for use**, clause 6, new warnings has been added in case the mattress is an integral part of the cot, to avoid the risk to which it would be incurred using a second mattress.

Here there is a pictogram that shall compare with the following warning: "WARNING: ONLY USE THE MATTRESS SOLD WITH THE COT, DO NOT ADD A SECOND MATTRESS IN THIS ONE, SUFFOCATION HAZARDS"

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There are also important modification in **marking**, clause 7.

If the mattress is an integral part of the folding cot:

- 1) "WARNING - this is a mattress, do not add a second mattress, suffocation hazards".
- 2) Name, registered trade name or registered trade mark of either the manufacturer or distributor or retailer together with additional means of identifying the product.
- 3) Reference to this standard (EN 716-1:2017).

If mattress is not a integral part of the cot:

- 1) Name, registered trade name or registered trade mark of either the manufacturer or distributor or retailer together with additional means of identifying the product.
- 2) Reference to this standard (EN 716-1:2017).
- 3) The maximum thickness of the mattress to be used (in the form of text, a distinct mark on the cot at the correct height, e.g. a line, or by other means).

Both standards will be published by CEN (European Committee for Normalization) the first days of July and subsequently implemented by the National Standardization Body of the European Countries: after that date they can be used and quoted.