



Standard Safety Specification for Drawstrings on Children’s Upper Outerwear¹

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INTRODUCTION

Knots, toggles, and other decorative or functional attachments on the ends of long, loose drawstrings can catch and snag on other objects. Two hazards associated with such drawstrings on children’s upper outerwear have been identified: the potential strangulation hazard associated primarily with hood and neck area drawstrings of upper outerwear; the potential vehicular dragging hazard associated primarily with waist and bottom drawstrings of upper outerwear. This consumer safety specification is intended to reduce the risk of drawstrings on children’s upper outerwear accessing and getting snagged in various entrapment areas.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers and is intended to reduce strangulation and vehicular dragging hazards associated with drawstrings on children’s upper outerwear.

1.2 The type of clothing covered by this specification is girls’ and boys’ clothing, such as jackets and sweatshirts, generally intended to be worn on the exterior of other clothing.

1.3 The sizes covered by this specification are sizes 2T to 12 for neck/hood drawstrings and sizes 2T to 16 for waist/bottom drawstrings.

1.4 Upper outerwear with fully retractable drawstrings are exempt.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²
[D5219 Terminology Relating to Body Dimensions for Apparel Sizing](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.37 on Drawstrings for Children’s Clothing.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *bartack, n*—the stitching through the drawstring and channel usually at the back center of the channel to prevent the drawstring’s being pulled through its channel.

3.1.2 *bottom of upper outerwear, n*—the edge that circumscribes the lowest part of the garment (most distant from the neck area).

3.1.3 *drawstring, n*—a non-retractable cord, ribbon, or tape of any material to pull together parts of upper outerwear to provide for closure.

3.1.4 *hood, n*—a loose, pliable covering for the head, either detachable or permanently attached to upper outerwear.

3.1.5 *neck area, n*—the area 1 in. (25 mm) above or below the neck opening.

3.1.6 *neck opening, n*—the opening is defined by the seam between the body of the upper outerwear and the collar or hood.

3.1.7 *toggle, n*—the wooden, plastic, metal or otherwise-composed piece attached to the loose end of the drawstring for decorative purposes or to prevent the drawstring’s being drawn through its channel.

3.1.8 *upper outerwear, n*—clothing, such as jackets and sweatshirts, generally intended to be worn on the exterior of other garments.

3.1.9 *waist, n*—the narrowed part of the body between the chest and hips (see Terminology [D5219](#)).

4. Performance Requirements

4.1 There shall be no drawstrings in the hood and neck area of children’s upper outerwear sizes 2T to 12.

4.2 Drawstrings at the waist and bottom of children’s upper
outwear sizes 2T to 16 shall:

4.2.1 Not exceed 3 in. (75 mm) in length outside the
drawstring channel when the garment is expanded to its fullest
width,

4.2.2 Have no toggles, knots, or other attachments at the
free ends, and

4.2.3 Be bartacked, if the drawstring is one continuous
string (see 3.1.6).

5. Keywords

5.1 children’s clothing; drawstrings

APPENDIX

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. RATIONALE

X1.1 *Potential Strangulation Hazard*—From January 1985
to June 1995, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
received 42 reports, including 12 deaths, in which primarily
hood and neck drawstrings caught on playground equipment,
cribs, a fence, an escalator, or farm machinery, resulting in
actual or near strangulation. Victims ranged in age from 14
months to 8 years. The majority of the cases involved play-
ground slides. Typically, as the child descended the slide, a
drawstring dropped into a gap between slide components, for
example, between the slide and platform, between the slide and
tunnel cover, between segments of a spiral slide, and so forth.
The drawstring pulled through the gap to the point where the
toggle or knot on the end caused it to snag. As a result, the child

was suspended part way down the slide, with the garment and
drawstring taut at the neck, strangling the child.

X1.2 *Vehicular Dragging Hazard*—From 1991 to 1996, the
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission received report of
12 incidents, including 4 deaths, in which waist and bottom
drawstrings snagged on school bus handrails or in schoolbus
doors. Typically, as the child descended the steps to get off the
bus, the drawstring dropped into a gap in the handrail. Before
the child or driver realized that the drawstring was snagged, the
bus door had closed and the bus was driving away, dragging
the child. Fatalities usually involved the child’s being run over
by the bus. Victims ranged in age from 7 to 14 years.

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