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Writing and marking instruments — Specification for caps to reduce the risk of asphyxiation

Instruments pour l'écriture et le marquage — Spécifications pour les capuchons afin de réduire le risque d'asphyxie

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **iv**
Introduction ..... **v**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
4 Requirements **1**
4.1 General 1
4.2 Cap size 1
4.3 Ventilated caps air flow 2
4.4 Test report 2
5 Identification **3**
Annex A (normative) **Test for air flow** **4**
Annex B (informative) **Design guidance for pen caps vent area** **6**
Bibliography **7**

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 10, *Technical product documentation*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 11540:2014), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes to the previous edition are as follows:

— Clause 2, Normative references, has been introduced and the clause numbering changed accordingly;

— In A.3.2 the reference to A.3.3 has been corrected to A.3.1;

— NOTE 1 and NOTE 2 have been deleted from Figure B.1;

— minor editorial changes.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

If a child inhales a pen cap it might become lodged below the larynx and block the trachea. The risk of asphyxiation can be reduced if the pen cap is ventilated or too large to enter the airway. Children must be actively discouraged from sucking, chewing or putting pen caps in their mouths. A way of avoiding the risk of inhalation of caps of writing and marking instruments is to manufacture products without caps whenever possible. However, if caps are essential, the provisions of this document minimize risk by specifying the design and performance of ventilated caps, which reduce the likelihood of inhalation and delay asphyxiation pending medical intervention.

ISO/TC 10 recognizes that while it is possible to identify the age range of the children who are most at risk, it is not possible to identify with certainty any writing instruments with detachable caps that would never be accessible to children and hence never pose a risk. It is, however, acknowledged that certain products (i.e. writing and marking instruments which are designed or only intended for use by adults, e.g. jewellery pens, expensive fountain pens, professional technical pens) are not intended for use by children and such items must be clearly labelled to that effect.

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Writing and marking instruments — Specification for caps to reduce the risk of asphyxiation

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements to reduce the risk of asphyxiation from caps for writing and marking instruments. It relates to such instruments which in normal or foreseeable circumstances are likely to be used by children up to the age of 14 years.

This document is not applicable to the following:

— writing and marking instruments which are designed or only intended for use by adults, e.g. jewellery pens, expensive fountain pens, professional technical pens;

— transit caps for refills.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
writing and marking instruments
instruments for writing or marking with a detachable cap, including pens with a self-contained reservoir of ink or other marking fluid

3.2
cap
detachable closure designed to cover the writing or marking tip when not in use

4 Requirements

4.1 General

Caps shall conform to at least one of the following: 4.2 or 4.3.

4.2 Cap size

When a cap is introduced with its main axis perpendicular to a $16\,^{+0,05}_{-0,00}$ mm diameter ring gauge of at least 19 mm thickness, and part of the cap enters the gauge, at least 5 mm of the length shall not enter under its own weight, see Figure 1.

NOTE Caps which conform to this subclause are deemed to be too large to present an inhalation hazard.

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