

Safety of children's clothing

Cords and drawstrings (EU)

25 June 2019



**Mehr Wert.
Mehr Vertrauen.**

**Add value.
Inspire trust.**

Meet the speaker



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- Expert in mechanical safety and physical testing of softlines products
- More than 16 years of experience in softlines testing and product safety regulation in international markets
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Harmonised Standard for Cords and Drawstrings

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Q&A

General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)

What does this directive require?

For Manufacturer:

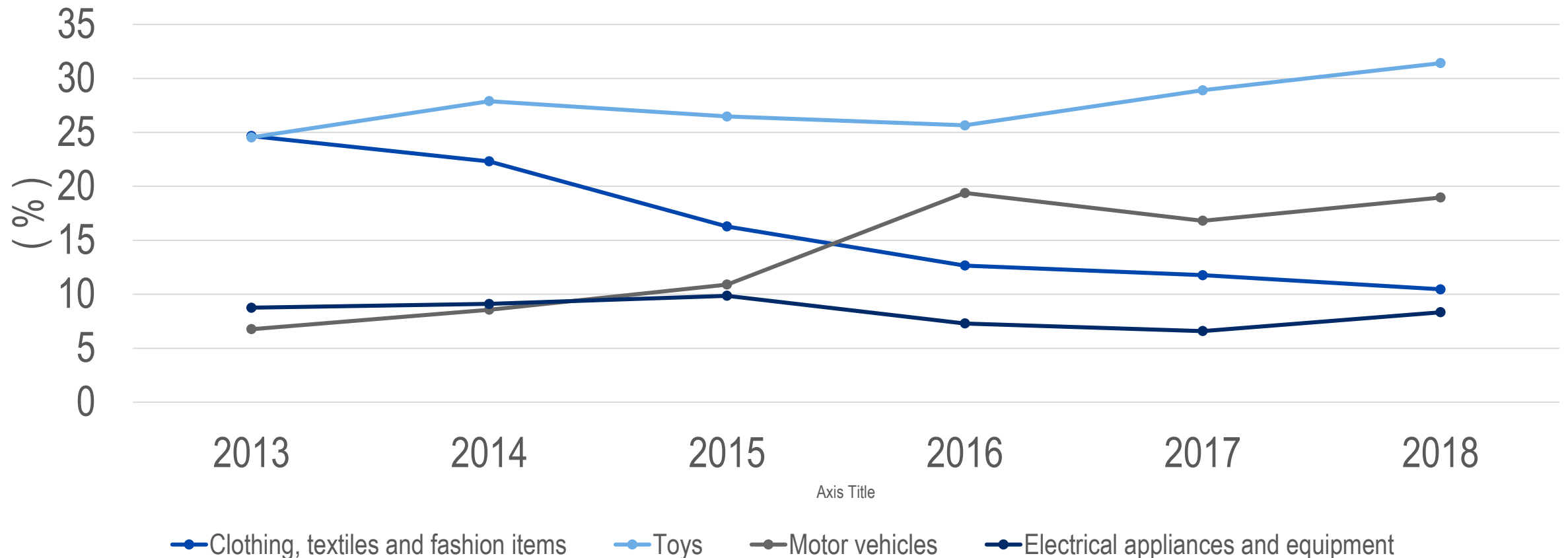
- Only '**safe product**' shall be placed in the EU market
- Marking of traceability of products. (manufacturer's identity including address and a product reference)
- Warnings and information about any inherent risks associated with the products

For Authorities and Member States:

- Rapid information exchange system (**Safety Gate**, formerly known as **RAPEX**) to alert quickly on any measures taken to withdraw unsafe products from sale
- 'National authority' monitor product safety and take appropriate action against unsafe items
- Every Friday, the European Commission publishes an overview of dangerous products reported to it by the Member States

Safety Gate (RAPEX) – Product Recall Analysis

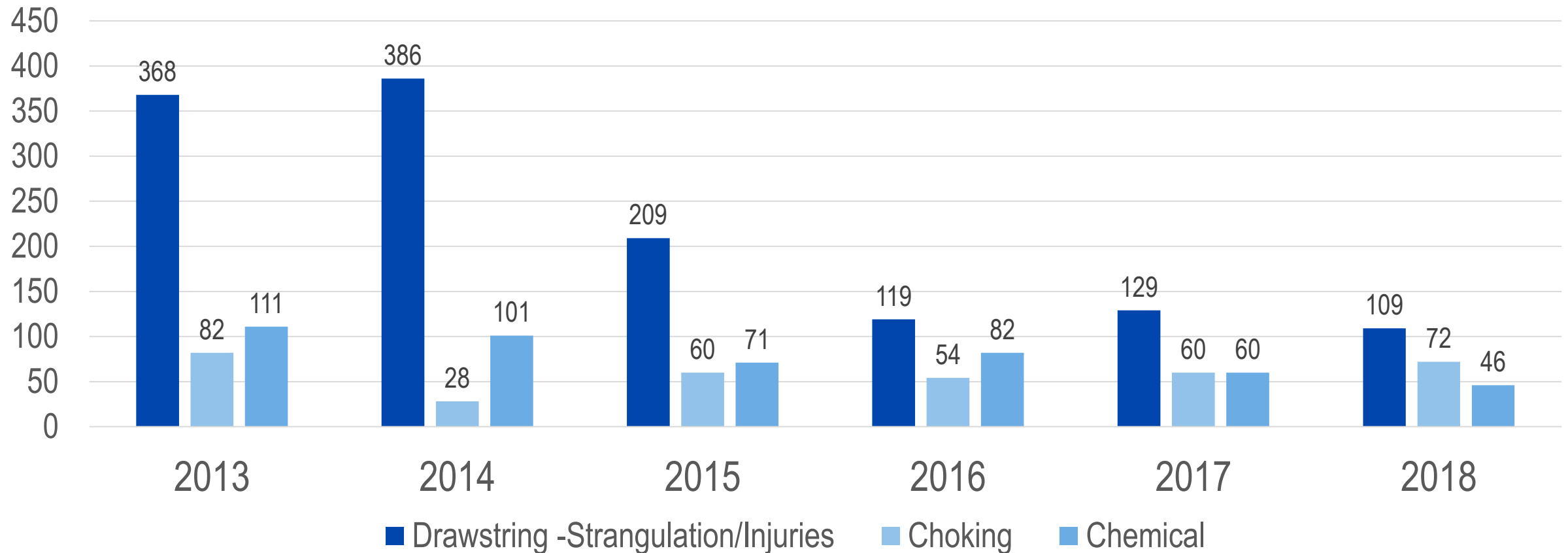
Share of the four most representative product categories (2013 - 2018)



Source: http://81.247.254.96/QuAJAXZfc/opendoc.htm?document=Rapid_Alert_System_statistics.qvw&host=QVS%40vsrv1463&anonymous=true

Safety Gate (RAPEX) – Product Recall Analysis

Top 3 risks associated with clothing, textiles and fashion accessories





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Harmonised Standard – Cords and drawstrings

EN 14682: 2014 (Safety of children's clothing — Cords and drawstrings on children's clothing — Specifications)

- Harmonised Standard adopted by EU nations
- Developed on the request of European Commission
- Aim is to minimise the risk of accidental entrapment by cords or drawstrings on children's clothing
- Products compliant to this standard are presumed to be safe with respect to risk associated with cords or drawstrings on children's clothing

Note: It should not be misunderstood that all garments which meet the standard are safe. A risk assessment may be required by the suppliers.

Scope

Children's clothing, including disguise costumes and ski apparel, up to the age of 14 years.

Examples:



Excluded products



Child use and care articles



Shoes, boots and similar footwear



Belts, with the exception of tied belts



Gloves, hats, bonnets and scarves



Neckties designed to be worn with a shirt or blouse



Braces

Excluded products



Religious and celebratory clothing



Aprons



Bags and purses



Specialist sportswear and activity wear
generally worn for limited



Theatrical costumes used for theatrical performances



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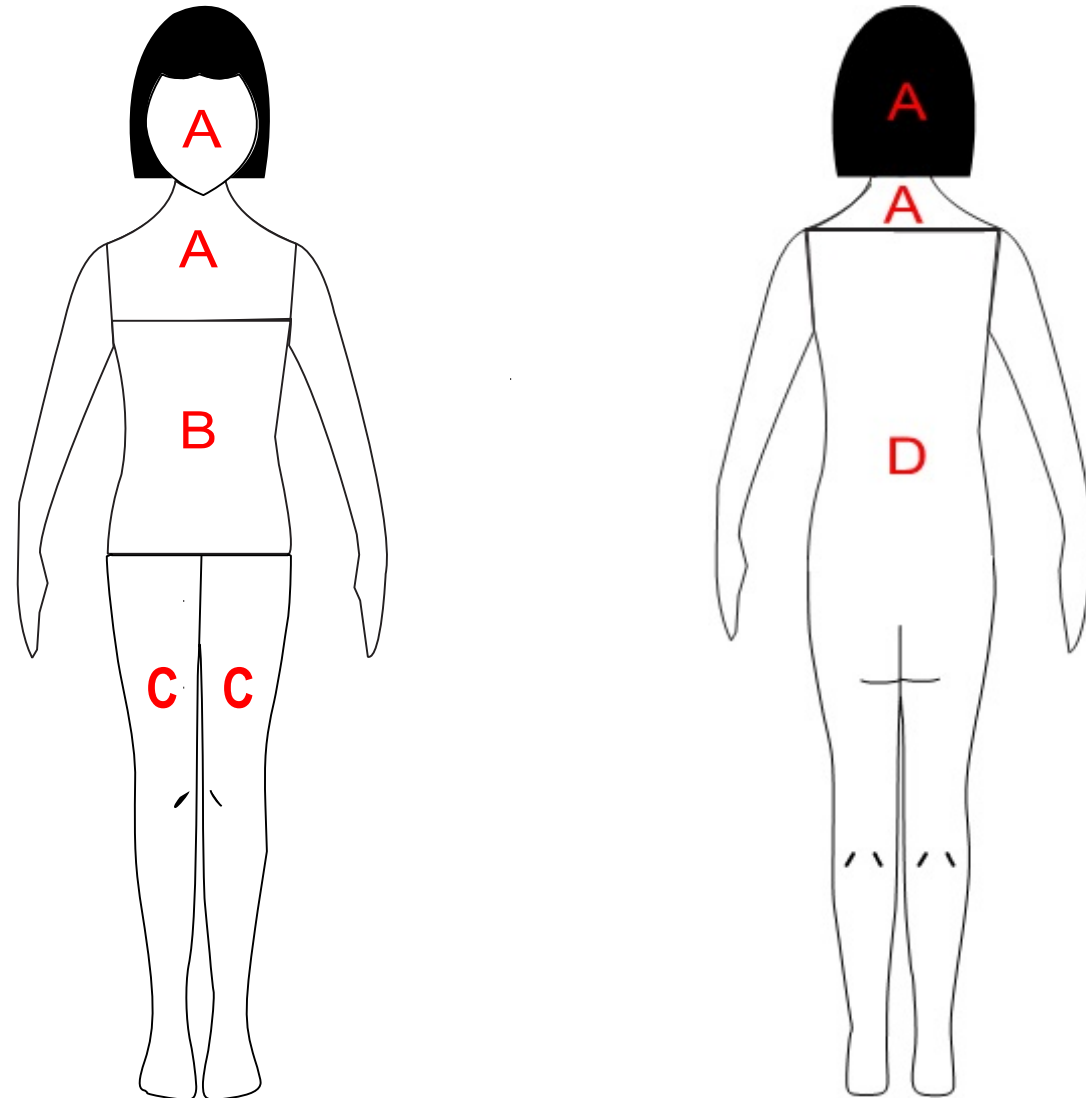
Safety Assessments

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Q&A

Body zones

- A. Head, neck and upper chest area
- B. Chest and waist area
- C. Below hip area
- D. Back area



Key definitions

Young child:

Person aged from birth to up age 7 years (that is up to and including 6 years and 11 months) which includes all children up to and including a height of 134 cm.

Older child and young person:

Person aged from 7 years up to age 14 years (that is up to and including 13 years and 11 months) which includes all boys of height greater than 134 cm up to 182 cm and girls of height greater than 134 cm up to 176 cm.



Tied belt or sash:

Decorative or functional piece of any material of not less than 3 cm width tied round the chest or waist area of a garment.

Key definitions



Drawstring:

Cord, chain, ribbon, string or tape, made of any textile or non-textile material including elastic material, which **passes through a channel, loop(s) or eyelet(s) or similar**, to adjust the size of the opening, or part of the garment or to fasten the garment itself.



Functional cord:

Cord, chain, ribbon, string or tape, made of any textile or non-textile material including elastic material, which is used to adjust the size of the opening, or part of the garment or to fasten the garment itself.



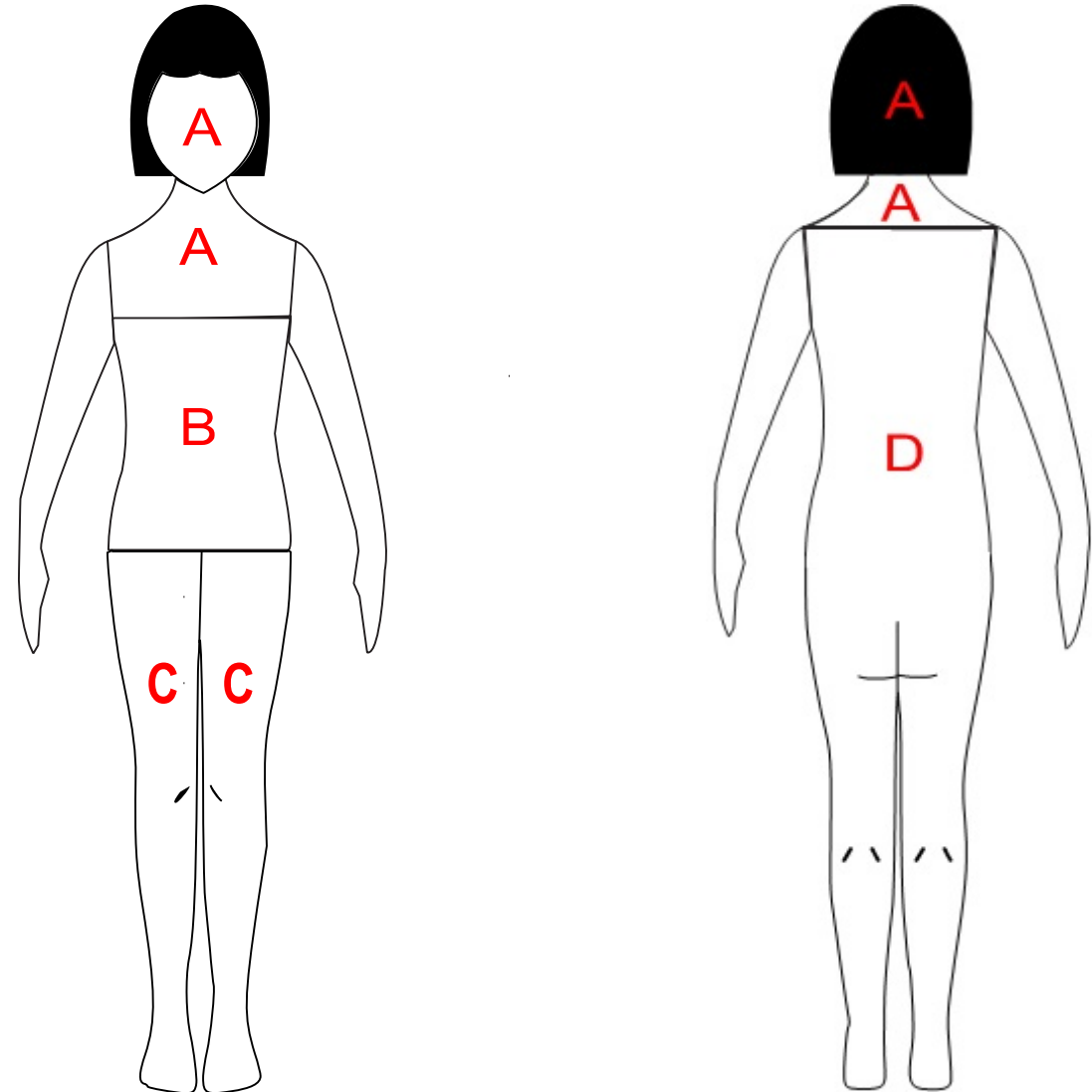
Decorative cord:

Non-functional cord, chain, ribbon, string or tape, made of any textile or non-textile material including elastic material, with free end with or without embellishment, which is **not intended to be used to adjust the size** of the garment opening or fasten the garment itself.

Safety Gate alerts and requirements

General requirements:

All areas



General requirements

Knots or three-dimensional embellishments are not permitted at the free ends and along the length of the free ends.

Example



Alert number: A12/1729/17

Product: Boy's jacket

Risk:

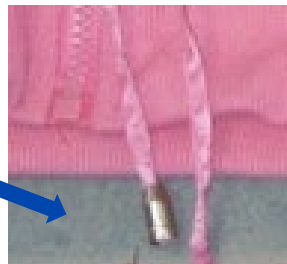
The drawstrings with free ends in back area can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1729/17

General requirements

Toggles shall only be used on drawstrings with no free ends, or decorative cords.

Example



Alert number: 0294/12

Product: Children's jacket

Risk:

The product poses a risk of **injuries** due to the presence of an unattached drawstring with metal **toggles and free ends** in the waist area.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=0294/12

General requirements

Drawstrings shall be attached (bar tack) to the garment in at least one point at middle.

Example



Alert number: A12/0328/18

Product: Children's trousers

Risk:

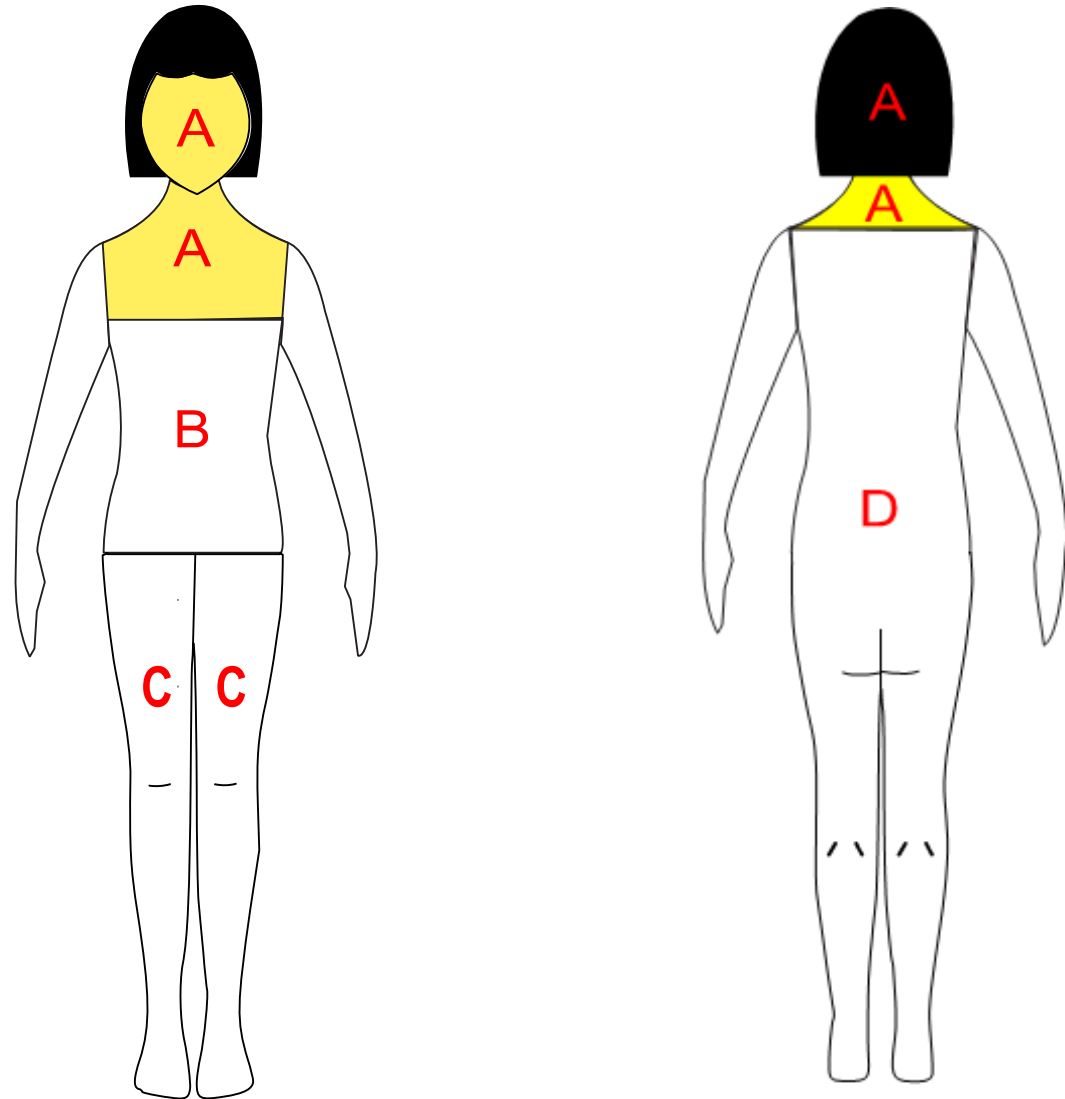
The drawstrings in the waist area are too long and **not fixed to the garment**. They can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/0328/18

Safety Gate alerts and requirements

Zone A

Head, neck and upper chest area



Head, neck and upper chest area

Drawstrings or functional cords are not permitted in the head, neck or upper chest area of garments intended for **young children**. Decorative cords shall not be permitted anywhere on the hood or at the back of the neck of garments intended for **young children**.

Example



Alert number: A12/1217/17

Product: Children's hooded sweatshirt.

Risk:

There are drawstrings in the hood of the sweatshirt which can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **strangulation**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/0745/18

Head, neck and upper chest area

For older child and young person:

- Drawstrings shall not have free ends
- No protruding loop when the garment is open to its largest maximum protruding loop circumference shall be 15 cm when garment is at its smallest opening position
- Toggles, if used for adjustment of drawstrings, shall be fixed to the garment

Example



Alert number: A12/0213/18

Product: Children's jacket

Risk:

There are drawstrings in the neck area. These can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **strangulation**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/0213/18

Head, neck and upper chest area

For older child and young person:

- Functional cords shall not be more than 7,5 cm in length
- Functional cords shall not be made from elastic cords

Example



Alert number: A12/1203/17

Product: Girls' cardigan (9-10 yrs)

Risk:

The functional cords designed to be tied at the chest can become trapped during various activities of the child, causing **strangulation**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1203/17

Shoulder straps – young children

Shoulder straps shall not have free ends external to the garment when worn.

Decorative cords attached to a shoulder strap shall not have free ends longer than 7,5 cm and fixed loops shall be no more than 7,5 cm in circumference.

Example



Alert number: A12/1217/17

Product: Children's clothing set

Risk:

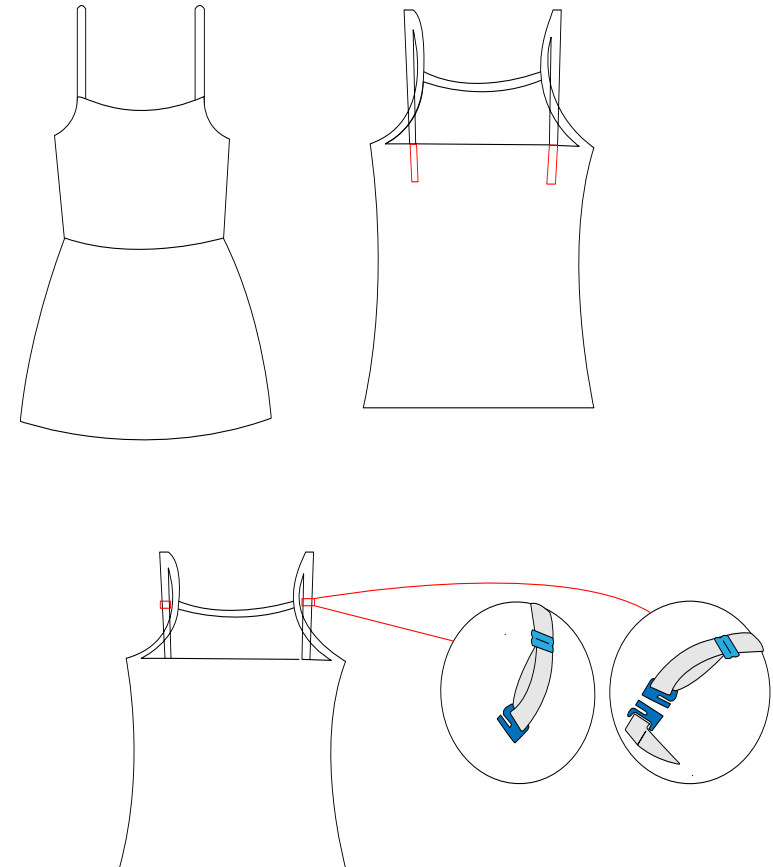
The cords at the head, neck and shoulders area may become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries** or **strangulation**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1217/17

Shoulder straps – young children

Acceptable mechanism to affix and adjust length of the shoulder strap:

- Permanently fixed to front and back,
- Using buttons, press fasteners, provided the free end is inside the garment,
- Use of a clip or fastening of two cords, provided these do not result in free ends of cords when garment is worn,
- Ring and slider mechanism, provided the loop shall lie flat to the body when worn.



Shoulder straps – Older child and young person

Shoulder straps are allowed provided free ends are no longer than 14 cm from the point at which they are to be tied and fixed loops are no more than 7,5 cm in circumference. Adjusting mechanism for length of the shoulder strap is permitted, provided the strap including the loop shall lie flat to the body when worn.

Example



Alert number: A12/1480/15

Product: Girls' outfit

Risk:

The product has cords (be tied above the shoulders as straps) in the upper body area that can become trapped during various activities of a child, causing **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1480/15

Halter neck-style garments

Halter neck-style garments shall be constructed with no free ends in the neck and throat.

Example



https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1811/17

Alert number: A12/1811/17

Product: Girls' bikini.

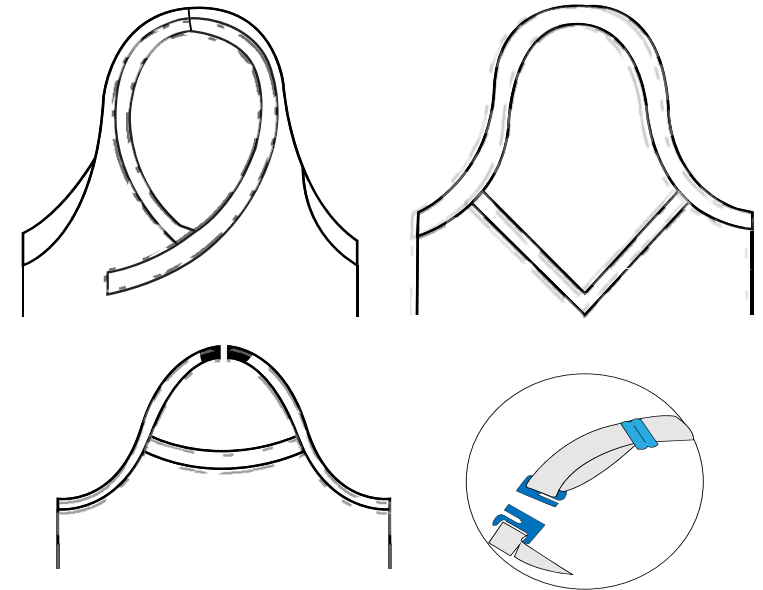
Risk:

The halter-neck cords, the cords at the back of the **bikini top** and the drawstrings in the waist area can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries** or **strangulation**.

Halter neck-style garments

Acceptable mechanism:

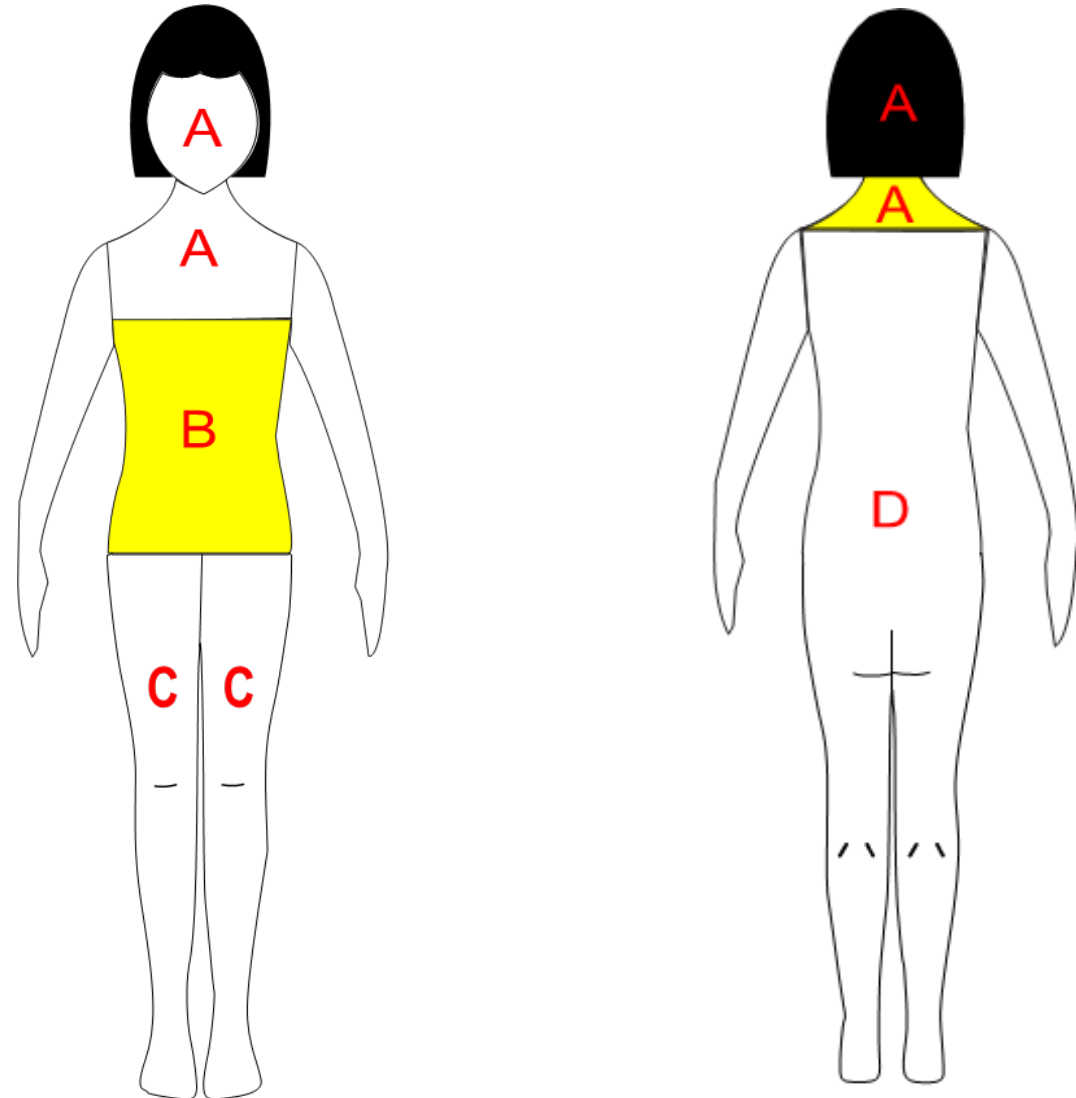
- Use of a clip or fastening of two cords, provided these do not result in free ends of cords when garment is worn,
- Ring and slider mechanism, provided the strap including the loop shall lie flat to the body when worn.



Safety Gate alerts and requirements

Zone B

Chest and waist area



Trousers, shorts, skirts, briefs, bikini bottoms

Garments shall not have free ends of drawstrings longer than 20 cm at each end when the garment is in a relaxed natural state.

Example



Alert number: A12/1835/17

Product: Swimming trunks

Risk:

The drawstring in the waist area is not sewn to the clothing and is longer than 20 cm. The drawstrings may be stuck during normal child activities and cause **injuries**.

Trousers, shorts, skirts, briefs, bikini bottoms

Garments shall not have functional cords longer than 20 cm

Example



Alert number: A12/1696/17

Product: Girls' Bikini

Risk:

The waist area of the bikini bottom can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries** or **strangulation**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1696/17

Trousers, shorts, skirts, briefs, bikini bottoms

Garments shall not have decorative cords longer than 14 cm including any embellishment.

Example



Alert number: A12/1529/15

Product:
Children's clothing set

Risk:
The cords in the waist area are too long and may become trapped during various activities of a child, causing **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1529/15

Shirts, coats, dresses, and dungarees

Garment shall not have free ends of drawstrings longer than 14 cm at each end when the garment is open to its largest and laid flat.

Example



Alert number: A12/0504/18

Product: Children's coat

Risk:

The drawstrings in the waist area are too long.

They can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/0504/18

Shirts, coats, dresses, and dungarees

Garment shall not have protruding loops on drawstrings with no free ends when the garment is open to its largest and laid flat. Where toggles are used for adjustment of drawstrings with no free ends, the toggles shall be fixed to the garment.

Example

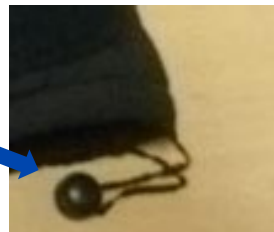


Alert number: A12/1698/16

Product: Children's jacket

Risk:

The drawstrings in the hood and in the **waist** area can become trapped during various activities of a child, causing strangulation or **injuries**.



https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1698/16

Shirts, coats, dresses, and dungarees

Garment shall not have functional cords longer than 14 cm.

Example



Alert number: A12/0463/17

Product: Babies' sleeveless jacket

Risk:

The cords to be tied in the chest area of the jacket can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/0463/17

Tied belts or sashes (tied at the back)

For young children: length shall not be more than 36 cm, when measured from the point where they are to be tied and shall not hang below the hem of the garment, when untied.

For older children and young persons: length shall not be more than 36 cm, when measured from the point where they are to be tied.

Example



Alert number: A12/1503/15

Product: Girls' dress (with tie belt for fastening at the back.), size up to 7.

Risk:

The product has a textile belt in the waist area which is too long and may become trapped during various activities of a child, causing **injuries**.

Tied belts or sashes (tied at the front or side)

Length shall not be more than 36 cm, when measured from the point where they are to be tied.

Example



Alert number: A12/0446/17

Product: Girls' leisure trousers

Risk:

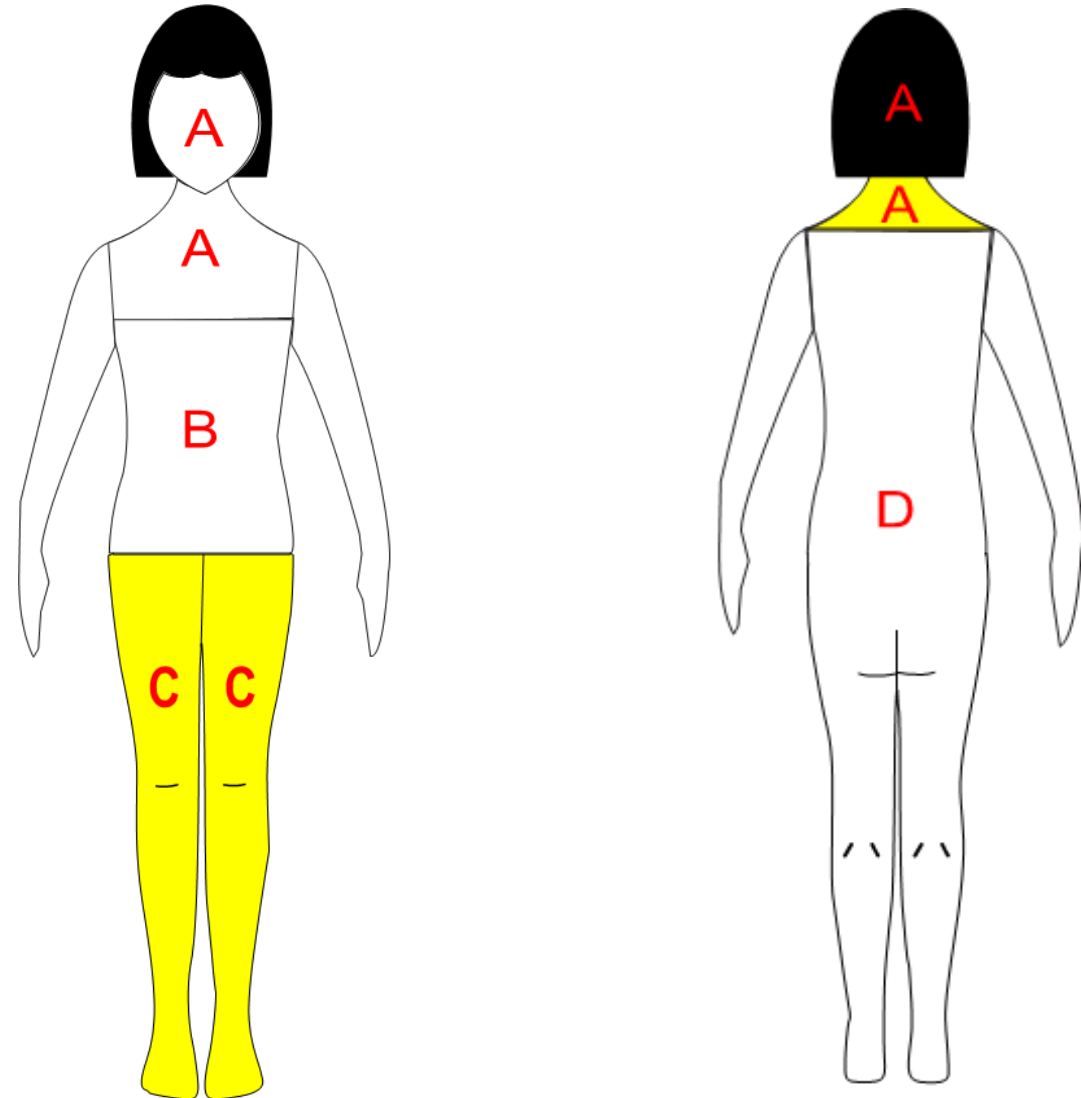
The belt of the trousers can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/0446/17

Safety Gate alerts and requirements

Zone C

Below hip area



Lower edge of garments which hang below the crotch

- Drawstrings, functional cords or decorative cords including any toggle shall not hang below the lower edge of the garment.
- Drawstrings, functional cords or decorative cords at the lower edges of garments shall lie flat against the garment, when the garment is tightened or fastened.

Example 1



Alert number: A12/1592/15

Product:
Children's jacket

Risk:
The long cords hanging below the lower hem of the garment can become trapped during various activities of a child and cause **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1592/15

Example 2



Alert number: A12/1592/15

Product:
Children's jacket

Risk:
The long cords hanging below the lower hem of the garment can become trapped during various activities of a child and cause **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A11/0031/18

Fringes

Fringes are considered as a series of decorative cords.

Example 1



Alert number: A12/1704/17

Product:
Girls' shorts

Risk:
The fringes at the waist area may become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1704/17

Example 2



Alert number: A12/1472/17

Product:
Girls' jumpsuit

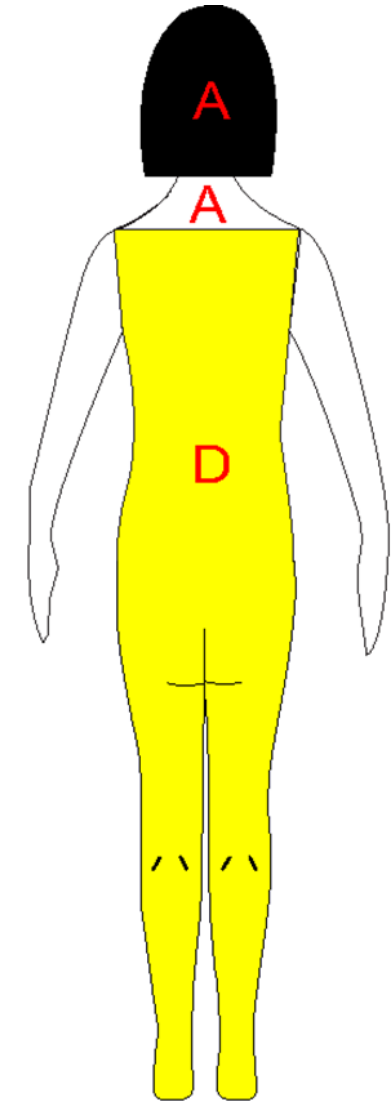
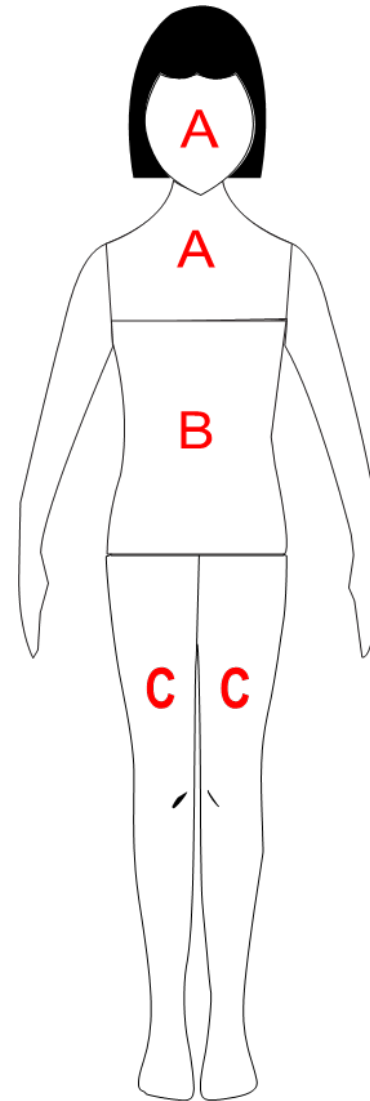
Risk:
The cords at the lower edge of the garment and the drawstring at the back area can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1472/17

Safety Gate alerts and requirements

Zone D

Back area



Back area

Children's garments shall not have drawstrings or functional cords that emerge from the back of the garment or to be tied at the back.

Example



Alert number: A12/0731/17

Product:
Girl's dress

Risk:
There are functional cords with free ends at the back of the garment which could become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.

Note: If the width of the cord is less than 3 cm, it shall not be regarded as tied belt/sash.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/0731/17

Back area

Decorative cords shall not be more than 7,5 cm in length and shall have no knot, toggle or three-dimensional embellishment.

Example



Alert number: A12/1976/14

Product:
Girls' dress

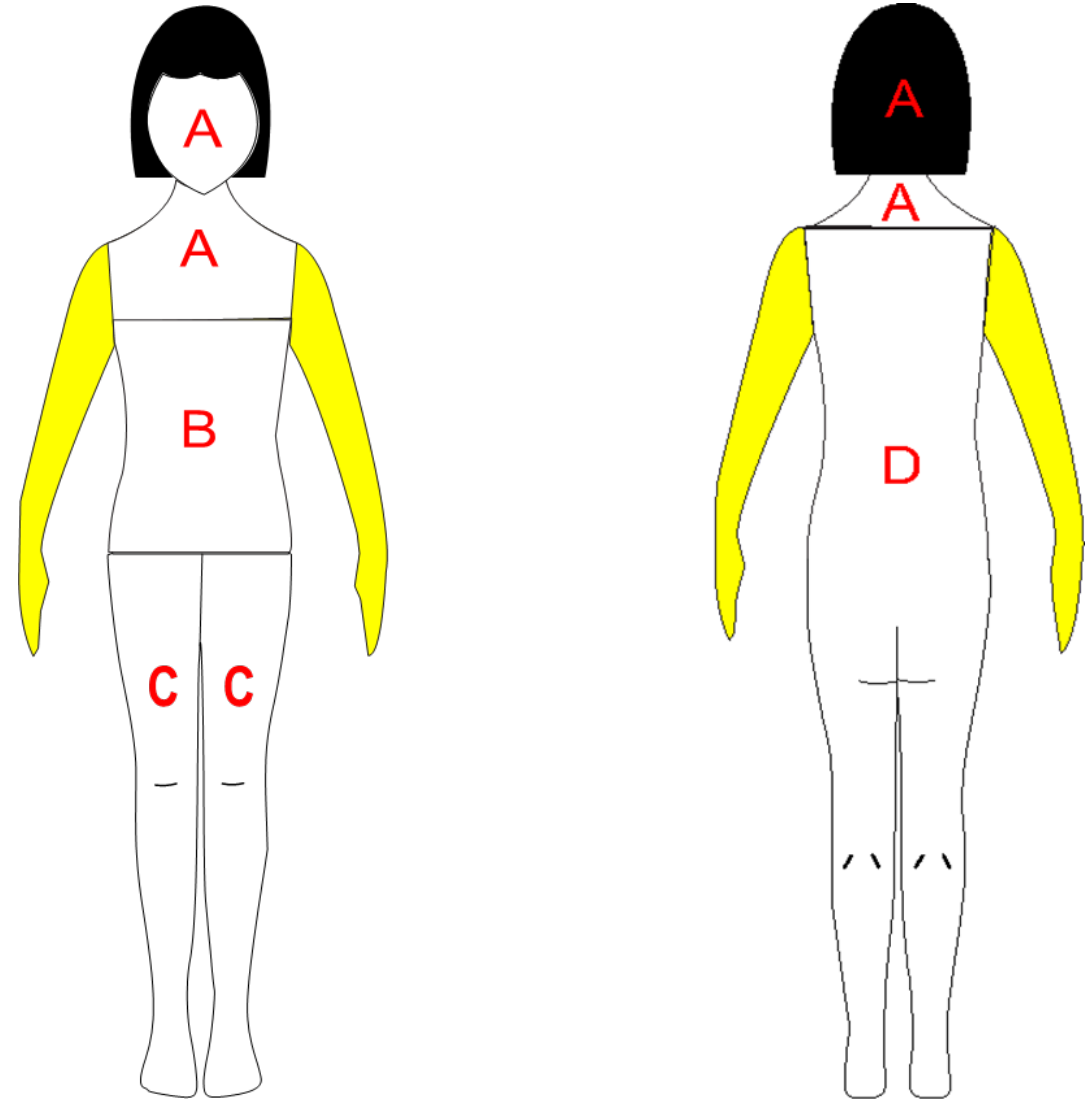
Risk:
The decorative cords in the back area can become trapped and could force the child to fall, causing **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/1976/14

Safety Gate alerts and requirements

Zone D

Sleeves



Long sleeves

Drawstrings, functional cords and decorative cords

- at the lower edge of long sleeves shall not be outside the garment,
- positioned below the elbow on long sleeves, shall not hang below the lower edge and free ends shall be no longer than 7,5 cm.

Example



Alert number: A12/2135/14

Product:

Children's clothing set

Risk:

The product has cords in the sleeves that can easily become entangled or trapped during the various activities of a child, causing **injuries**.

https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/consumers_safety/safety_products/rapex/alerts/?event=viewProduct&reference=A12/2135/14

Short sleeves

Drawstrings, functional cords and decorative cords are permissible on short sleeves provided the sleeve finishes above the elbow. The maximum protruding length permitted (measured when the sleeve is open to its largest and laid flat).

For young children: 7,5 cm

For older children and young persons: 14 cm

Example



Alert number: A12/0362/17

Product:
Girl's dress

Risk:
The cords on the **sleeves** area can become trapped during various activities of a child, leading to **injuries**.



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General Product Safety Directive (2001/95/EC)

How to ensure a product is safe for EU market?

“**Safe product**” shall mean any product, which under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use does not present any risk or only the minimum risks, considered to be acceptable and consistent with a high level of protection for the safety and health of persons,

- A product shall be presumed to be safe if it meets specific European Standards (**Harmonised Standards**) or national standards covering risks and risk categories.
- If no such requirements or standards exist, the **safety assessment** must be based on:
 - Commission guidelines,
 - Best practice in the sector concerned,
 - State of the art and technology,
 - Reasonable consumer safety expectations.

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