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British Standard Specification for  
**Safety requirements for baby nests**

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Caractéristiques de sécurité des nids des anges — Spécifications

Babytragetaschen; Sicherheitsanforderungen

### Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Committee.

Baby nests were initially designed for the purpose of keeping small babies warm whilst being carried, for example around shops or on buses, but it quickly became apparent that they were also being used as an alternative to normal bedding and babies were allowed to sleep in them unsupervised for long periods or even overnight. Over the past few years, a number of incidents, involving fatalities or near fatalities to infants in baby nests, have been reported and although the cause of these could not be directly attributed to the baby nest, sufficient concern was felt for the Department of Trade to issue a warning that infants should not be left unattended in baby nests and to request manufacturers to supply a similar warning with their products. At the same time, the British Standards Institution was asked to draw up a safety standard covering all aspects of performance, construction and labelling of baby nests to ensure that as far as possible the product was acceptably safe.

The construction of a baby nest specified in this standard avoids the creation of a suffocation hazard, which a hood could present, and ensures that there is no loose fabric on which a baby could choke. Similarly handles, ties, cords and elastication have been excluded. In addition it was felt that the air permeability of the whole fabric assembly was of paramount importance and that it should be such that a baby's breathing was not impeded. A research project, funded by the Department of Trade, was therefore

undertaken at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, to investigate methods for the determination of air permeability of baby nests and to recommend safety levels. From the results of this work, it has been possible to specify a suitable method of test and acceptable maximum limits for the resistance to air flow of dry baby nests both before and after washing. However, it was found that no material examined came within the specified limits when wet and for this reason it has not been found practicable to include air permeability requirements for baby nests when wet.

Finally, during the course of the research work, it was found that if a baby nest was hand washed using soap-based products it became almost impermeable to water. This was obviously a very dangerous feature since if an infant were to be sick in the nest, the fluid would pool around the face, rather than soaking away. This standard therefore requires that the washing instructions given on the label specifically exclude the use of soap or soap-based products.

**Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations. In particular, attention is drawn to the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951 and any Regulations thereunder, to the Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1973 (S.I. 1973, No. 2124) and subsequent amendments, and to the Trade Descriptions (Origin Marking) (Miscellaneous Goods) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981, No. 121).**

## 1 Scope

This British Standard specifies safety requirements for baby nests. It includes requirements for performance, construction and labelling.

NOTE. The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

## 2 Definition

For the purposes of this British Standard the following definition applies.

**baby nest.** An insulated bag designed for carrying infants generally under the age of 6 months. The base may be extended to form an area for the head.

## 3 Performance

### 3.1 Outer fabric and lining

The outer fabric and the lining shall give a numerical rating for change in colour of not less than 4 and a numerical rating for staining of not less than 3 when tested in accordance with BS 1006, section E04.

### 3.2 Durability

The baby nest shall be washed four times in accordance with one of the procedures given in BS 4923 in line with the manufacturer's instructions, as given on the label (see clause 5 (b)). The line drying procedure specified in BS 4923 shall be carried out after each wash. There shall be no damage to seams, trimmings or accessories.

### 3.3 Air permeability

Air permeability measurements shall be carried out on the baby nest both before and after it has been washed and dried four times, as specified in 3.2. For an unwashed baby nest, the pressure differential shall not exceed 3 mmH<sub>2</sub>O when measured in accordance with the air permeability test specified in BS 4578. For a baby nest that has been washed and dried four times, the pressure differential shall not exceed 4 mmH<sub>2</sub>O when measured in accordance with the air permeability test specified in BS 4578. In all cases baby nests shall be conditioned for 24 h and tested in the standard temperate atmosphere for testing textiles, as defined in BS 1051. Measurements shall be made on the complete baby nest in the dry state at the head end of the base and

shall be carried out in both directions, i.e. with first the lower and then the upper side of the base resting on the rigid support plate\*.

## 4 Construction

4.1 Handles, ties, cords or elastics shall not be used in any part of the baby nest.

4.2 Monofilament sewing thread shall not be used. Any sewing thread used shall comply with BS 6157.

4.3 Trimmings shall be sewn to the baby nest. Any free edge of any trimming shall not exceed 70 mm in width. There shall be no non-textile accessories.

4.4 The head area shall be flat and of uniform thickness except where the fabric assembly is compressed by a row of stitching.

4.5 The base fabric assembly shall be partially or fully quilted, except for any area where the base filling is designed to be removable. Any unquilted area shall not extend further than 350 mm from the foot end. The maximum distance between adjacent rows of parallel stitching shall not exceed 50 mm. For other quilting configurations, the area of unquilted fabric between stitching shall not exceed 2500 mm<sup>2</sup>.

4.6 The lining and outer fabrics shall be under tension between adjacent rows of stitching.

4.7 It is important to ensure that excess loose fabric is avoided in all areas of construction as this might pose a suffocation hazard.

## 5 Labelling

Each baby nest shall bear a prominent sewn-in label(s) which shall be looped only if positioned on the outside at the foot end and which shall be marked with the following information:

(a) the number and date of this British Standard, i.e. BS 6595 : 1985†;

(b) instructions for washing the baby nest using care labelling symbols in accordance with BS 2747‡, and including the following warnings on a single label:

'CAUTION!  
NEVER WASH IN SOAP OR SOAP-BASED PRODUCTS!  
DO NOT DRY CLEAN!  
NOT DESIGNED FOR OVERNIGHT USE!'

\*This is to ensure that there is sufficient transfer of carbon dioxide, as well as oxygen, through the base.

†Marking BS 6595 : 1985 on or in relation to a product is a claim by the manufacturer that the product has been manufactured to the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of such a claim is therefore solely the manufacturer's responsibility. Enquiries as to the availability of third party certification to support such claims should be addressed to the Director, Quality Assurance Division, BSI, PO Box 375, Milton Keynes MK14 6LO for certification marks administered by BSI or to the appropriate authority for other certification marks.

‡Dry cleaning is not allowed because of the difficulty of ensuring that the dry cleaning solvent has been completely removed from the wadding in the fabric assembly.