



Raising standards for consumers

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Spring forward, don't fall back!



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The better weather that accompanies the start of spring often sees children admitted to hospital with injuries resulting from use of garden trampolines. The latest version of the CEN standard, EN 71-14 'Safety of Toys - Trampolines for domestic use' now also specifies safety requirements for "inground" trampolines, i.e. trampolines installed at ground level. ANEC and experts from the DIN Consumer Council played a leading role in the revision of the European standard.

The standard requires safety nets for freestanding trampolines to protect against falls during use. However, it does not require safety nets for in-ground trampolines, as the risk associated with a fall from such a trampoline is considered lower. These trampolines may instead be sold with shock-absorbing material, designed to provide a soft surface around the trampoline.

More broadly, garden trampolines pose risks often underestimated by users. It is important to maintain them regularly. Exposure to weather and UV solar radiation can result in the safety net losing tensile strength and hence its protective function.

Stephen Russell, ANEC Secretary-General, commented:

"Many children find trampolines fun. Nevertheless, trampolines must be maintained and used with care if the risk of accident is to be lessened. We advise consumers to replace damaged or faded safety nets, and to ensure the nets are closed when the trampoline is used. Last but not least, garden trampolines are designed to be used by only one child at a time. Accidents happen when two or more children use the trampoline simultaneously".

The CEN infographic, "Standards @ play", showcases the most important requirements and test methods of EN 71-14 (<https://bit.ly/2M3fBMX>).

ENDS.



ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and the use of standards, as well as related legislation and public policies.

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