

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECISION – REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET FOR BICYCLES AND LUGGAGE CARRIERS

Drawing up of European standards first requires the European Commission to set the specific safety requirements which the European standards should satisfy and give a mandate to the European standardisation body to draw up those standards. Four European standards (EN 14764 – City and trekking bicycles, EN 14766 – Mountain bicycles, EN 14781 – Racing bicycles and EN 14872 – Luggage carriers for bicycles) are not covered by a Commission mandate and therefore the commission has mandated the standardization body to revise the standards on the basis of the specific safety requirements contained in the decision. The new versions of the standards cannot be published in the Official Journal of the European Union without a Commission mandate. EN 14765 specifies safety requirements and test methods for bicycles for young children (excluded from the Toy safety Directive) but is not supported by a Commission mandate and therefore it is necessary to set safety requirements for the development of standards for bicycles for young children.

### **PART I: SECTION 1 OF THE DECISION SETS THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL TYPES OF BICYCLES:**

General requirements include:

- All parts accessible to the user shall during normal or intended use not cause physical injuries.
- Users shall be informed of the risks and dangers likely to occur and how to prevent them.
- The maximum permissible load for which a bicycle is designed (weight of rider and passenger, luggage, luggage carrier etc).
- Indication as to whether a bicycle is suitable for the fitting of a luggage carrier and (or) child seat.
- Bicycles shall be equipped with lighting equipment and reflectors which comply with the provisions in force in the country where the product is marketed.
- Handling – stable handling whilst riding, braking, turning and steering including when one hand is removed from the handlebar when giving hand signals.



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- Stability – When a luggage carrier is fitted and loaded it shall offer stable handling when riding, braking, turning and steering.
- Durability/Fatigue – All parts shall be safe during the whole duration of the product and where appropriate an indication of wear limits within which parts shall be replaced in order to be fully functional. The effects of weather conditions such as rain on the braking system shall be minimized.
- Braking system – Two independent braking systems; one acting on the front wheel and one acting on the rear wheel.
- Sharp edges – Exposed edges that come into contact with the users body during normal handling, riding or maintenance shall not be sharp
- Entrapment – Bicycles shall not pose any risk of entrapment that can be avoided by design.
- Protrusions - Protrusions shall be avoided whenever harmful to the user
- Folding mechanisms shall be functional, stable and safe against unintentional opening during use.
- Fasteners, screws, nipples etc shall be made of suitable materials and shall be secured to avoid unintentional loosening.
- Bicycle parts designed to be adjusted shall be easily manipulated without jeopardising the safety of the user
- Chemical properties – All parts in contact with the user shall not cause toxicity hazards
- The standard shall describe stability, performance, endurance and fatigue tests.
- Product safety information shall be included in the language of the country in which the product is sold.

#### **PART I: SECTION 2 ADDITIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC BICYCLES**

- Bicycles for young children:
  - No quick release devices to be used
  - No toe clips or toe straps to be fitted
  - Limitations on the force of the front break to prevent loss of control due to blocking wheels
  - Shall not pose an entrapment hazard in any possible position of the seat.
  - Two independent breaking systems
- Mountain bicycles:
  - All safety components shall be designed to withstand all forces that are higher during normal use than other types of bicycle (vibration and knocks, higher forces on the steering, drive and breaks).
- Racing bicycles:
  - All safety components shall be designed to withstand all forces that are higher during normal use than other types of bicycle (higher speed, higher forces on the drive, steering and breaks).

#### **PART II: SPECIFIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR LUGGAGE CARRIERS FOR BICYCLES**

- General - Luggage carriers shall pass tests for specific requirements to



ascertain its stability and durability, its resistance to fatigue and temperature.

- Classification - Luggage carriers will be classified according to their load capacity according to their intended use and the point at which the luggage carrier will be clamped to the bicycle.
- Size – Luggage carriers shall be of an appropriate size if intended to carry child seats.
- Stability – Luggage carriers shall be designed to provide sufficient stability for normal use by the intended user.
- Sharp edges - Exposed edges shall not pose the risk of injury
- Protrusions shall be either avoided or designed appropriately
- The product shall be visible when used in dark or poor visibility conditions.
- Product safety information – Specific product information shall be included whether the luggage carrier is sold separately or mounted on the bicycle.

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The full text of the EU decision can be found on:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/index.cfm?do=search.documentdetail&Foxw8+J/ELuOhOGWaiWqVtaFLyMTBvzGvyWVC555IN6xhxbx1TISJ2Mfq5DtxY23N>



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