

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES

NO. 041/08 MAY 2008

## BS 7272-1:2008 and BS 7272-2:2008 published: An overview of major changes

In 30 April 2008, the British Standards BS 7272-1:2008 and BS 7272-2:2008 were published by BSI. At the same day, BS 7272-1:2008 came into effect and superseded BS 7272-1:2000+A1:2000. The provisions of the part of BS 7272-2:2008 supersedes the existing BS 7272-2:2000, which will be withdrawn on 30 September 2009.

BS 7272 Part 1 and 2 set safety requirements for writing and marking instruments which in normal or foreseeable circumstances are likely to be used by children up to the age of 14 years.

When children play with pen closures in the mouth they accidentally could inhale an end closure or pen cap. As a result the inhaled part might become lodged below the larynx and so block the trachea. The provision of these requirements minimizes the hazard from caps and end closures by reducing the likelihood of inhalation and delays asphyxiation pending medical intervention.

The standards were last updated in **2000**. Below some major changes are listed compared to the current BS 7272 standard.

### **BS 7272-1:2008**

#### **Terms and definitions:**

- “when not in use” is added to the definition: Cap. “Detachable closure designed to cover the writing or marking tip **when not in use**”

#### **Requirements:**

- **Ventilated caps vent area**, where the continuous air passage is measured is deleted from the requirement and changed into a design guidance NOTE. The remaining alternatives to comply are either cap size or air flow.

### **BS 7272-2:2008**

#### **Requirements:**

- An additional requirement is added. Where the end closure has the form of a cap and fits over the barrel (instead of inside it like a plug) and its length exceeds its diameter or the end closure is secured by a screw thread but does not conform to the “size” requirement, or “inaccessibility” requirement, it shall meet both the “security” and the “air flow” requirements.

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#### FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: [gpsc@sgs.com](mailto:gpsc@sgs.com)  
Julian Kwok + 852 2774 7140 or [julian.kwok@sgs.com](mailto:julian.kwok@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 [mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)  
Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 [au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)  
Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 [gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto:gb.cts.sales@sgs.com)  
Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 225 0024 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 [sgs.turkey@sgs.com](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)  
Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 [Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com](mailto:Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com)

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