

International/National Standards Update: BS 7272-1:2008 and BS 7272-2:2008 for Pen Caps

The British Standards Institute has published new edition of the standards BS 7272 Parts 1 & 2 which came into effect on 30 April 2008. BS 7272 is a widely adopted national safety standard specifying requirements to reduce the risk of asphyxiation from caps (BS 7272-1) and from end enclosure (BS 7272-2) for writing and marking instruments.

New edition of the standards **BS 7272 Parts 1 & 2** were published by British Standards Institute and came into effect on 30 April 2008.

BS 7272-1:2008 supersedes BS 7272-1:2000 + A1:2000, which has been withdrawn.

BS 7272-2:2008 supersedes BS 7272-2:2000, which will be withdrawn 18 months after the publication date (i.e., to be withdrawn on **30 September 2009**) so that suppliers have sufficient time to comply with the new edition.



As mentioned in our previous article (see [International/National Standards for Pen Caps](#), published in March 2008), BS 7272 is a well-recognized and widely adopted national safety standard specifying requirements to reduce the risk of asphyxiation from caps (BS 7272-1) and from end enclosure (BS 7272-2) 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.

If a child inhales a pen cap or an end closure, it may become lodged below the larynx and so block the trachea. The risk of asphyxiation can be reduced if:

- The pen cap is ventilated or too large to enter the airway; or
- The end closure is securely attached, ventilated, flush with or protrudes only a minimal amount from the end of the writing instrument or is too large to enter the airway.

Technically speaking, the safety requirements and test method in **BS 7272-1 & 2: 2008** are quite similar to the previous edition, only with minors changes summarized as follows:

Standard	Changes compared with BS 7272-1 & 2: 2000
BS 7272-1:2008 (Pen Caps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changed the section "Ventilated caps vent area" from "Requirements" (normative) to "Design guidance" (informative) under Annex B. ▪ Added a new section on "Test Report" to specify the reporting requirements.
BS 7272-2:2008 (End Closures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Added a new section on "Additional safeguard" regarding the design of end closure, either in a form of a cap or secured by a screw thread. ▪ Added a new section on "Test Report" to specify the reporting requirements.