

Children's Nightwear in Australia and New Zealand: Enforcement of the AS/NZS 1249:2003 standard

AUSTRALIA:

The Trade Practices (Consumer Product Safety Standards) (Children's Nightwear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear) Regulations 2007 of Australia states that until 29 February 2008, both AS/NZS 1249:2003—effective from 1 March 2007— and AS/NZS 1249:1999 are effective.

Nevertheless, from 1 March 2008, only AS/NZS 1249:2003 will remain effective.

NEW ZEALAND:

In New Zealand, the AS/NZS 1249:2003 standard is effective from 12 August 2006, as according to Product Safety Standards (Children's Nightwear and Limited Daywear Having Reduced Fire Hazard) Regulations 2005.



AS/NZS 1249:2003, the Australian/New Zealand standard for Children's Nightwear and limited daywear having reduced fire hazard

The objective of this Standard is to provide criteria to assess the fire hazard of children's nightwear for the purpose of classification and for labeling of garments according to their fire hazard.

This standard specifies design, performance and labeling requirements for four categories of children's nightwear, together with some garments commonly worn both day and night. It also covers requirements for the labeling of paper patterns for these garments.

This standard applies to nightwear garments in sizes ranging from 00 to 14, the number scheme according to AS 1182:1997 standard - Size coding scheme for infants' and children's clothing- Underwear and outerwear.

The four categories of children's nightwear which are covered in this standard

Category 1:	Garments and infant sleep bags with sleeves or arm openings, made from fabric of the low fire hazard type.
Category 2:	Garments, which because of their design, are less likely to catch alight and if they do, the spread of the flames is reduced because of their design features
Category 3:	All-in-one style garments made predominantly from knitted fabrics with a mass less than 280 g/m ² , in sizes 00 to 2 and close fitting over more than 80% of the surface area.
Category 4:	Garments that are assigned a high flammability rating, and infant sleep bags with sleeves or arm openings, unless they comply with category 1 garment requirements.

The testing criteria for the four categories of children's nightwear

Requirement	*Flame spread time	**Surface burning time	Trims	Design/ Dimension	Attachments at neck opening	Fastenings/ slits	Fire hazard information label
Category 1	√	√	√		√		√
Category 2		√	√	√	√	√	√
Category 3		√	√	√			√
Category 4***		√		√			√

*Flame spread test is based on ISO 6941 - Measurement of flame spread properties of vertically oriented specimen

**Surface burning test is based on ISO 10047 - Determination of surface burning time of fabrics.

*** For category 4 there are also requirements for fabrics with a cellulosic, acetate or acrylic fibre content.

Garments that do not meet the requirements of any of these categories are considered to have a very high flammability rating and therefore are unacceptable for supply as children's nightwear.

SGS can offer a comprehensive range of tests in their 130 textile labs around the world. Please contact us if you are interested in AS/NZS 1249:2003.

For enquiries:

Global Competences Support Centre, gcsc@sgs.com

Ruth HON

☎ + 852 2774 7148 or ✉ ruth.hon@sgs.com

Asia - Hong Kong Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 ✉ mktg.hk@sgs.com

Australasia - Perth Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 ✉ au.cts@sgs.com

Europe - London, UK Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 ✉ gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East - Turkey, Tel: +90 212 225 0024 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 ✉ sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas - USA, Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 ✉ Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com

Web: www.sgs.com Global Competences Support Centre: ✉ gcsc@sgs.com

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