



ANEC Child Safety Working Group

Outline of a technical study and

Call for proposals

“Addressing hazards associated with using sleep-related products in combination with other child care articles”

1. Background

This study intends to follow up one of the main conclusions from the ANEC Technical Study, “*Investigating Safe Sleeping Conditions for Children*”¹, where it was recommended that standards be developed for cots/travel cots when used in combination with other child care functions.

Many child care products (referred to here as *primary products*) are designed to be used in combination with a second product (*secondary products*) that may or may not also be a child care product. This outline seeks only to address primary products and secondary products produced by the same company, so the compatibility of the products is ensured.

(Note that, throughout this outline, the term *child care product* includes child care articles falling within the scope of CEN TC 252 working groups, and items of children’s furniture normally handled by CEN TC 207 WG 2.)

In some cases, the primary and secondary products are separately covered by standards. Although the standards for the separate products are intended to ensure that the products address potential hazards when used individually, using products in combination can introduce or increase hazards not addressed by the separate standards.

¹ <https://bit.ly/2XWKmLC>



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The problems associated with product compatibility were shown in a PROSAFE JA 2013 CCA3 Report². It found that when ten cots with “compatible” changing tables were tested against EN 12221, eight failed (eight for dimensions, seven because of potential finger entrapments, six for the presence of cords/strings). It was concluded the use of such products in combination leads to additional hazards when considered against CEN TR 13387, notably entrapment hazards between the cot side and changing table.

For example, the arm entrapments described at

<https://www.saferproducts.gov/ViewIncident/1780507> and
<https://www.saferproducts.gov/ViewIncident/1771740>,

or falling hazards

<https://www.saferproducts.gov/ViewIncident/1281430> and
<https://www.saferproducts.gov/ViewIncident/1223423>.

In Task 1 of the Technical Study, “*Investigating Safe Sleeping Conditions for Children*”, the authors discovered the following regarding the bassinet function of a travel cot:

a fatality of a 3-month old baby occurred in the UK in a travel cot with a suspended bassinet [often referred to as a crib]. The four webbed strapped corners of the bassinet were intended to wrap round the corners of the cot but two clips at the same end had detached allowing the baby to drop head down on to the mattress of the cot where he was later found dead³.

The authors were also aware of the following fatality:

a thirteen month old died when the changing table attachment on a play yard (US term for travel cot) came down on the back of her neck as she stood up⁴.

In addition, there was a CPSC recall in 2007 of a changing unit mounted on a Kolcraft play yard following another death. Here the restraint straps of the changing table were hanging down into the play/sleep space posing a strangulation hazard⁵.

² <http://www.prosafe.org/index.php/joint-action-2013/cots>

³ <https://bit.ly/2UznRKF>

⁴ <https://bit.ly/2JsIH7T>

⁵ <https://bit.ly/2UwE2by>

2. Purpose

The purpose of this study is consider safety issues, associated with combining child care products, that should be addressed through standardisation. It is likely to build on the Technical Study, “*Investigating Safe Sleeping Conditions for Children*”, by using the systematic hazard analysis approach used in this Study, which in turn was based on the description in CEN TR 13387.

It would provide ANEC with a study that meets four key criteria associated with Technical Studies:

- *The resulting proposal should be relevant to consumers;*
- *It should meet a key priority area for ANEC – in this case, child safety;*
- *It should make a significant contribution to consumer representation in standardisation, particularly as such a proposal has not been delivered in this area previously;*
- *It should improve the profile of ANEC and may lead to similar projects in the future.*

3. Scope

The contractor is asked:

- to identify and justify one or more combinations of child care products that would benefit from a combined products standard;
- to produce a draft of a standard in a hazard-based format for a primary child care product, used in combination with a secondary child care product, as an example of a combined products standard. (If there is agreement in the relevant CEN technical committee, this could form the basis of a new European standard.)
- to produce a list of combined child care products available on the market that should be considered for future standardisation.

4. Methodology

The contractors should use their expertise to deliver a report presenting (as a minimum) the three outcomes set out above in section 3 ‘Scope’. They will also be required to work with the Project Advisor to produce the outputs noted in section 8 to enhance ANEC's impact in the field.

The report and other documents should be sent to ANEC in Word format.

5. Time Schedule

The contractors will be required to submit their report by 31 December 2020.

6. Study advisor and supervision

Tania Vandenberghe, ANEC Senior Programme Manager.

7. Contractor requirements

The contractor shall meet the following requirements:

- Experience of CEN standardisation, especially associated with child care products;
- Knowledge of child care products available on the European market;
- Knowledge of the problems arising from combining child care products;
- An understanding of the hazard and risk analysis systems presented in CEN TR 13387 and used in some standards fora;
- A track record of undertaking similar consumer-focused studies and delivering outputs on time and within budget.

8. Study budget

The contractor will be asked to break down the overall costs of 15.125€ (VAT excluded) according to :

- person-days needed;
- travel expenses;
- test material, if relevant;
- work packages, etc.

30% of the sum will be paid on signature of the contract, with the balance paid on the contracted deliverables being accepted by ANEC.

9. Use of results – impact expected

It is expected the study will result in a proposal to revise relevant standards and influence standards development methods.

It should also demonstrate that ANEC is capable in drafting new standards for child care products when used separately or in combination.

In addition, the study will be used to raise ANEC's profile through:

- its publication on the ANEC website;
- an article in the ANEC newsletter;
- an ANEC media release;
- presentation of the results to a meeting of the European Commission's Consumer Safety Network;
- dissemination of the working method and recommendations to members of the ANEC Child Safety Working Group.

10. Call for proposals

Potential contractors are invited to reply to the requirements and specifications detailed in this outline and to send proposals to:

Stephen Russell, ANEC Secretary-General, sru(at)anec.eu

no later than **Friday 8 May 2020.**