

Hood cords in children's clothing

Introduction

The potential danger of hood cords became apparent in the early 1970s. A number of young children at play were strangled when hood cords became caught on items such as park slides etc.

As a result safety regulations were introduced and these apply to all those business persons in the supply chain.

Main legal requirements

The supply of any child's outer garment, below a certain size, which has a hood designed to be secured by means of a cord drawn through the material, is prohibited.

'Supply' includes offering or agreeing to supply and exposing or possessing for the purpose of supply.

What is an 'outer garment'?

- Raincoats
- Overcoats
- Anoraks , or
- Any other garment suitable for use as outer wear.

What sizes do the requirements apply to?

The requirements apply to outer garments having a measurement not exceeding 44cm across the chest when the garment is laid out flat and normally fastened.

What happens if I don't comply with these legal requirements?

These requirements are detailed in the Children's Clothing (Hood Cords) (N.I.) Regulations 1976. Failure to comply is an offence under the Consumer Protection Act 1987. On conviction the courts may impose a fine of up to £5000 or imprisonment for up to 6 months, or both. In addition goods may be seized by Environmental Health Officers and forfeited by the courts.

Where can I get further information?

Your local Environmental health Department can give you specific advice, in addition to general assistance and further information.