



INFORMATION FOR MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS AND RETAILERS REGARDING DRAWSTRINGS ON CHILDREN'S UPPER OUTERWEAR

Health Canada has determined that the following products can pose a danger to children:

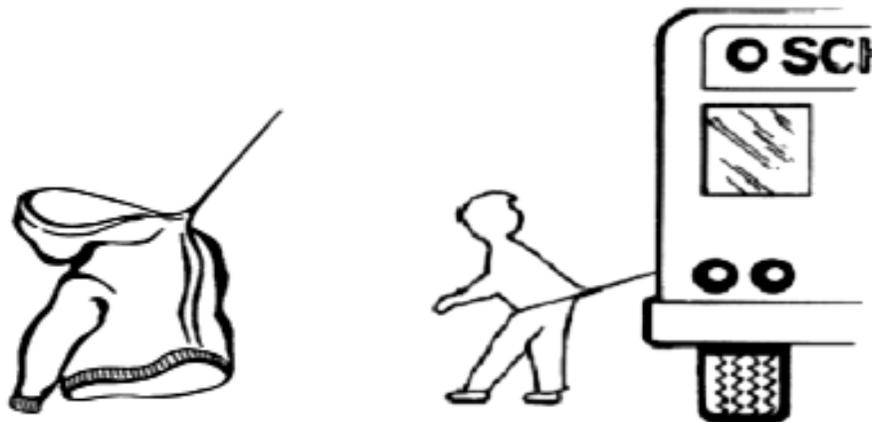
- **Children's upper outerwear in sizes newborn to 12** that have drawstrings in the hood and neck area.
- **Children's upper outerwear in sizes 2T to 16** that do not meet the performance requirements set out in ASTM Standard F1816-97, *Standard Safety Specification for Drawstrings on Children's Upper Outerwear*, for drawstrings at the waist and bottom.

The manufacture, importation, advertisement or sale of these products is a violation of paragraphs 7(a) and 8(a) of the *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act* (CCPSA). Health Canada's position is that children's upper outerwear should, at a minimum, comply with the requirements set out in this document. Noncompliance with these requirements may result in corrective action.

Note that compliance with these requirements does not mean an article of children's upper outerwear is fully compliant with the CCPSA. Other requirements or standards may apply. Industry should review their products for all hazards and take appropriate measures to make sure their products are safe for consumers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DANGER

Drawstrings on children's upper outerwear can become caught on playground equipment, fences or other objects and result in strangulation, or in the case of a vehicle, in a child being dragged. Health Canada has received reports of 16 incidents that occurred in Canada between 1988 and 2014 involving drawstrings on children's upper outerwear, including three deaths. There have also been 38 recalls posted between 2006 and 2014 due to drawstrings on children's upper outerwear.



ACTION FOR INDUSTRY

Under paragraphs 7(a) and 8(a) of the CCPSA, persons who manufacture, import, advertise or sell consumer products are responsible for making sure that their products do not pose a danger to human health or safety¹.

To reduce the risk of children's upper outerwear getting caught on various objects, which can result in serious injury or death, these products should, at a minimum, comply with the following requirements:

Requirements

Children's Upper Outerwear in Sizes Newborn to 12

- Children's upper outerwear in sizes newborn to 12 must not have drawstrings in the hood and neck area.

Children's Upper Outerwear in Sizes 2T to 16

- In accordance with ASTM F1816-97, drawstrings at the waist and bottom of children's upper outerwear in sizes 2T to 16 must:
 - a) not exceed 75 mm in length outside the drawstring channel when the garment is expanded to its fullest width;
 - b) have no toggles, knots, or other attachments at the free ends; and
 - c) be bartacked (i.e., stitched through the drawstring and channel, usually at the back centre of the channel), if the drawstring is one continuous string.

Definitions

Children's upper outerwear: Upper body clothing, such as jackets and sweatshirts, generally intended to be worn over other clothing. This definition also includes one-piece snowsuits and lightweight upper outerwear appropriate for use in warmer climates.

This definition does not include upper body clothing typically worn against the body, such as underwear, sleepwear, swimwear, swimwear cover-ups, shirts/t-shirts and dresses; or hats.

¹ A "danger to human health or safety" is defined in section 2 of the CCPSA as "any unreasonable hazard — existing or potential — that is posed by a consumer product during or as a result of its normal or foreseeable use and that may reasonably be expected to cause the death of an individual exposed to it or have an adverse effect on that individual's health — including an injury — whether or not the death or adverse effect occurs immediately after the exposure to the hazard, and includes any exposure to a consumer product that may reasonably be expected to have a chronic adverse effect on human health."

Drawstring: a non-retractable cord, ribbon, or tape of any material to pull together parts of upper outerwear to provide for closure.

This definition does not include belts. However, belts that present a hazard similar to that of drawstrings (e.g., free ends that exceed 75 mm in length or have attachments) will be considered for corrective action on a case-by-case basis.

Exclusions

These requirements do not apply if a drawstring on children's upper outerwear is fully retractable, non-accessible (e.g., covered with fabric), or decorative (i.e., ornamental only; cannot be used for closure).

A drawstring is fully retractable if it retracts its full length automatically and completely into the garment after the user adjusts it to any tightness and then releases it, without any user effort to retract it. A cord lock, knot, toggle or other attachment at the end of a fully retracted drawstring must be flush against the outside of the garment. Note that there can be no cord locks, knots, toggles or other attachments at the free ends of waist or bottom drawstrings.

A drawstring is flush against the garment only if all the following points are satisfied when the garment is laid out flat:

- a) the exposed portion of the drawstring is straight;
- b) the drawstring lies against the surface of the garment or, if an attachment is present, no more than 6 mm from the surface of the garment; and
- c) the attachment is in contact with the surface of the garment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you require additional information regarding this document, please contact the Consumer Product Safety Program by [email](mailto:cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca) at cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca or by telephone at 1-866-662-0666.

See also:

Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA)

<http://hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/legislation/acts-lois/ccpsa-lcspc/index-eng.php>

Industry Guidance – “Danger to Human Health or Safety” Posed by Consumer Products

<http://hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/indust/cons-prod-danger/index-eng.php>

ASTM F1816-97, *Standard Safety Specification for Drawstrings on Children's Upper Outerwear*

Available in English and French from ASTM International at <http://www.astm.org> and from the Standards Council of Canada at <http://www.scc.ca>.