

UK INTERPRETATIONS GROUP

The BTHA's interpretations group consisting of BTHA members, test laboratories, manufacturers, importers and retailers has agreed upon the following interpretation.

Interpretation no.	140
Date of submission	3/5/22
Submitted by	Intertek
Standard/Directive	Toy Safety Directive/EN71-2
Clause No	4.5
Clause Title	Soft-filled/padded playmats.

Question

Should soft filled/padded playmats be tested as soft-filled toys under EN 71-2?

The previous 2011+A1:2014 version stated :

"4.5 Soft-filled toys (see A.7)

*The requirements of this subclause do not apply to soft-filled toys or soft-filled parts of a toy that **cannot** be cuddled or hugged by a child during play."*

"A.7 Soft-filled toys (see 4.5)

*The previous version of this European Standard specified requirements for: "soft-filled toys (animals and dolls) with a piled or textile surface". During the revision of this European Standard, it was decided not to restrict the scope of this heading (4.5) to the shape of the toy and its surface material. Therefore, the heading of 4.5 has been changed to include all soft-filled toys that **can be cuddled or hugged by a child** (for example a teddy bear, **a play mat**). However, those soft-filled toys or soft-filled parts of toys which cannot be cuddled or hugged by a child during play (for example the soft-filled rim of a pushchair, a non-removable soft-filled mattress of a toy cot) continue to be excluded from the scope of this heading."*

The current standard now states:

"4.5 Soft-filled toys (see A.6)

These requirements do not apply to:

*— soft-filled toys or soft-filled parts of a toy that **cannot be cuddled or hugged by a child during play;...**"*

"A.6 Soft-filled toys (see 4.5)

*These requirements are aimed at soft-filled toys or soft-filled parts of toys which would **normally be cuddled or hugged by a child during play**.*

Typical examples of these toys are soft-filled teddy bears, animals, balls, soft-bodied dolls etc.

*These requirements are not aimed at soft-filled parts that **would not be cuddled or hugged during foreseeable play by children**, for example the soft-filled rim of a pushchair, a non-removable soft-filled mattress of a toy cot, soft-filled components (nappies, padded dolls clothes) of a doll's playset, etc."*

Interpretations Group Answer /Action

Play mats that meet the definition of a soft toy and can be cuddled are to be tested to 4.5 but those mats that do not meet those requirements (e.g. are without stuffing or cannot be removed from a framework) are only tested to 4.1.