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GUIDANCE DOCUMENT No 21 ON THE APPLICATION OF DIRECTIVE 2009/48/EC ON THE SAFETY OF TOYS Trampolines

This Guidance document is a **non-binding** document intended to provide guidelines to help Member States and stakeholders making the distinction between trampolines that are classified as toys and trampolines that are not classified as toys. It expresses the views of the majority of members in the Expert Group on Toy Safety[1].

The images appearing in this document constitute examples intended to facilitate the decision-making. They do not presuppose the conformity of the represented products.

This Guidance document does not relieve national authorities from their obligation to determine for any individual product, on a case-by-case basis, whether it falls within the scope of application of the Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC or within the scope of application of other sectoral legislation. The Court of Justice of the European Union has repeatedly held that the national authorities, acting under the supervision of the courts, must proceed on a case-by-case basis, taking account of all the characteristics of the product. Therefore, this document shall not 'prescribe' which regulatory framework applies. Rather, it shall serve as one out of many elements supporting the national competent authorities in their case-by-case decision on individual products. In particular, this Guidance document does not prevent a national authority from consulting with colleagues from other regulated sectors concerned in order to reach a complete view on all aspects related to a given product. This guidance document (including its classification criteria) is not meant to affect products already placed on the market before the revised document has been published on the Europa website.

Following the recent adoption and publication of Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2025 on the safety of toys[2] (TSR)

[1] The views expressed in this document are not legally binding; only the Court of Justice of the European Union can give an authoritative interpretation of Union law.

[2] Regulation (EU) 2025/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2025 on the safety of toys and repealing Directive 2009/48/EC, *OJ L, 2025/2509, 12.12.2025*

repealing Directive 2009/48/EC, this guidance document will be updated once the TSR will be applicable in mid-2030.

1. Introduction

Only trampolines that are classified as toys are subject to the requirements of the Toy Safety Directive (TSD)

The Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC does not define (toy) trampolines, nor mention them anywhere in the text.

The explanatory guidance document on the TSD mentions trampolines as examples of 'activity toys'.

The term "activity toy" is used in Annex II, part I, point 11 of the TSD which lays down a specific safety requirement for activity toys[3]. Annex V also foresees specific warnings for this category of toys (Annex V, part B, point 2[4]). Besides this specific requirement, activity toys also need to fulfil the other requirements of the TSD. Only activity toys meant for domestic use fall under the TSD. This is in line with the exclusion of playground equipment intended for public use from the scope of the Directive (Article 2 (2)). According to Article 3 point 21 of the Directive he' activity toy means a toy for domestic use in which the support structure remains stationary while the activity is taking place and which is intended for the performance by a child of any of the following activities: climbing, jumping, swinging, sliding, rocking, spinning, crawling and creeping, or any combination thereof'.. The activity takes place in or on the toy. The support structure of the activity toy remains stationary while this activity takes place. However, trampolines, although being a category of activity toys, are excluded from the scope of EN 71-8:2018 'Activity toys for domestic use' which covers other categories of activity toys.

Trampolines are covered by harmonized standard EN 71-14: Safety of toys — Part 14: Trampolines for domestic use, although such standard does not provide for a definition of trampolines either.

According to EN ISO 23659 Sports and recreational facilities – Trampoline parks – Safety

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[3] Activity toys shall be manufactured so as to reduce the risk of crushing or trapping of body parts or trapping of clothing and of falls, impacts and drowning as far as possible. In particular, any surface of such a toy accessible for one or more children to play on shall be designed to bear their load.

[4] Activity toys shall bear the following warning:

'Only for domestic use'.

Activity toys attached to a crossbeam as well as other activity toys, where appropriate, shall be accompanied by instructions drawing attention to the need to carry out checks and maintenance of the main parts (suspensions, fixings, anchorages, etc.) at intervals, and pointing out that, if these checks are not carried out, the toy may cause a fall or overturn.

Instructions must also be given as to the correct assembly of the toy, indicating those parts which can present a danger if incorrectly assembled. Specific information regarding a suitable surface on which to place the toy shall be given.

requirements, trampolines are constructions consisting of a frame, impact attenuation, trampoline bed and suspension system[5]

In Guidance document No 14 on sport equipment, trampolines for domestic use are classified as toys if they are for use in play by children under 14 years of age.

2. Criteria to classify a trampoline as toy

The definition of a toy provides the following criteria:
- Any product designed or intended
- whether or not exclusively
- for use in play
- by children of less than 14 years of age.

a) **play value for children under 14 years of age**
The main difficulty of this definition is the concept of "use in play" or "playing value". Virtually, everything has playing value for a child, but this does not make every object fall into the definition of a toy. To be considered as a toy for the purpose of the Directive, the playing value has to be introduced in an intended way by the manufacturer. The fact that a product is intended for children under 14 years does not automatically render the product being a toy (e.g. children bicycles)

b) **presence of a safety net (enclosure)**
The presence of a safety net (enclosure) can be an indication that the trampoline could be classified as a toy and, in some cases (for certain trampolines), having an enclosure is a requirement according to EN 71-14, although this criterion does not apply in all cases, for example where buried trampolines are installed in safe surroundings. However, having an enclosure does not automatically make a trampoline a toy.

c) **domestic use (e.g. in a private garden)**
Trampolines for domestic use in play by children of less than 14 years shall be classified as toys.

Other trampolines for domestic use (other than play) and trampolines for other than domestic use shall be classified as non-toys.

The size of the trampoline is no criterion for the classification as toy or non-toy.

3. Different categories of trampolines and applicable standards

Standard EN 71-14 currently covers most types of buried and non-buried trampolines for domestic use of all sizes, indoor and outdoor intended to be used as a toy.

It does not cover the following categories of trampolines:

[5] Definition in the standard EN ISO 23659 Sports and recreational facilities – Trampoline parks – Safety requirements

- Trampolines for gymnastics[6] ;
- Trampoline parks[7] ;
- Floating inflatable trampolines for use in and on water[8];
- trampolines for public use as playground equipment – both indoor and outdoor.
- trampolines for rehabilitation purposes;
- inclined mat trampolines;
- fitness trampolines, including trampolines for medical use.

For those categories intended to be used as a toy but which are not covered, in whole or in part, by the scope of EN 71-14, an EC-type examination is required[9] to prove compliance with the safety requirements of the TSD.

Annex 2 of ANEC's technical study on the classification of trampolines[10] considers rebound limits (size, length and number of springs together with the type of bed) as an important factor for the safety of trampolines.

4. Accessories for trampolines

Trampolines with additional features, e.g. tents or basketball hoops are excluded from the scope of EN 71-14. Therefore, an EC-type examination is required for such accessories for trampolines. There are no requirements in EN 71-14 for the hazards that an accessory, like a basket hoop or bungycords may expose to children, such as entrapment and hard obstacles. According to the warnings in EN 71-14, a trampoline shall not be used when wet. Therefore, trampolines should not be used with a water sprinkler.

5. Mandatory warnings for trampolines for domestic use

In order to ensure the safety of children, toy trampolines for domestic use of any size must carry the mandatory warnings of the standard EN 71-14.

Clear safety instructions, warnings on the risks and instructions for use also play an important role to ensure safety of trampolines.

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6 Covered by standards EN 13219 Gymnastic equipment - Trampolines - Functional and safety requirements, test methods, and EN 913 Gymnastic equipment – General safety requirements and test methods

7 Covered by standard EN ISO 23659 Sports and recreational facilities - Trampoline parks - Safety requirements

8 Covered by standard EN ISO 25649-6 Floating leisure articles for use on and in the water - Part 6: Additional specific safety requirements and test methods for Class D devices

9 Protocol No 1 : Toys submitted to EC-Type Examination (Rev 9)

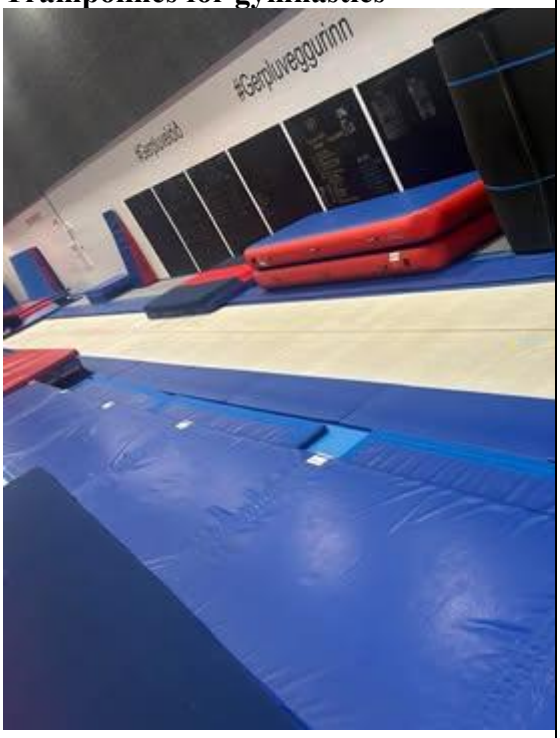
10 https://anec.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ANEC-TS-2020-CHILD-SERVICES-002-Annex-2.pdf

6. Examples of different kinds of trampolines

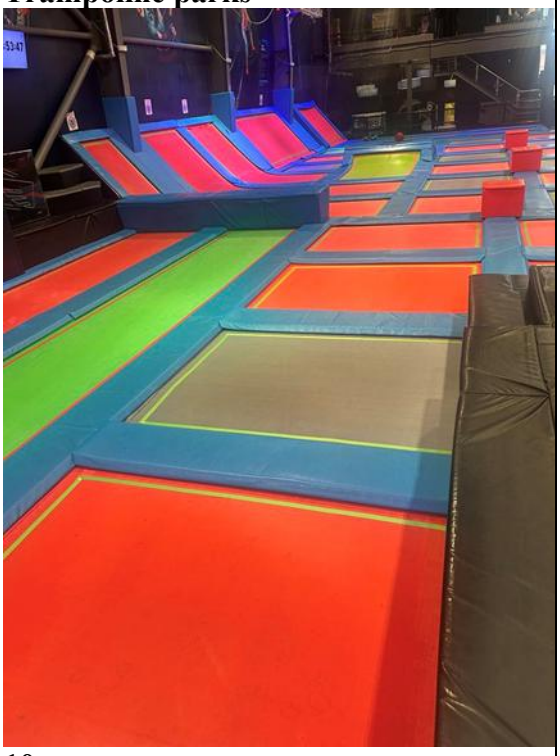
	Toy? (Y/N)	Description	Criteria and applicable standard
Small trampolines for domestic use **1**	**Y**	**A small trampoline with a hand bar for added stability and balance. This trampoline is intended for children 10months and older. The hand bar is cushioned, encouraging kids to hold on while they jump. Both for indoor and outdoor use.**	**Play value for children under 14 years of age** **Child-appealing** **For domestic use** **EN 71-14**
 2		**A small trampoline with a hand bar for added stability and balance. This trampoline is intended for younger children.**	**Play value for children under 14 years of age** **Very child-appealing** **For domestic use** **EN 71-14**

Trampolines for domestic use (buried) **3**	**Y**	**Trampoline has to be buried. Product for use in play by children < 14 years, buried A buried trampoline with the frame level to the ground. Rectangular 460cm. Net height 195cm. From 3 years of age. Requires a hole to be dug for the frame and jumping space under the trampoline.**	**Play value for children under 14 years of age.** **For domestic use.** **EN 71-14**
Raised buried trampolines **4**	**Y**	**They are buried toy trampolines with the frame levelled above the ground Round trampoline with diameter 430cm. Net height 195cm. Raised 25cm off the ground. A hole required to be dug under the trampoline for jumping space. Frame installed above ground. From 3 years of age.**	**Play value for children under 14 years of age.** **For domestic use.** **EN 71-14**

Trampolines for gymnastics **5**	**N**	**Official competition trampoline. Dimensions: 520x305x115 cm (lxbxh).**	**No play value Intended for sport activities Not for domestic use**
Trampolines for gymnastics **6**	**N**	**This is a professional trampoline setup, commonly used for gymnastics or competitive trampoline sports. This trampoline provides a powerful rebound. The trampoline has a rectangular bed marked with a red cross in the center, which serves as a visual target for athletes to maintain control and alignment during jumps. The surrounding frame is equipped with blue safety mats to minimize injury risk.**	**No play value Intended for sport activities Not for domestic use**

Trampolines for gymnastics  **7**	**N**	**This is a long rectangular trampoline track, often referred to as a tumble track, used for gymnastics or acrobatics training. This trampoline provides a powerful rebound. The surface features a durable, perforated material with a central red guideline to assist athletes in maintaining a straight trajectory during their routines. The surrounding frame is equipped with blue safety mats to minimize injury risk. The setup is typical of a professional gymnasium or training facility.**	**No play value** **Intended for sport activities** **Not for domestic use**

Trampolines for gymnastics **8**	**N**	**This is a mini trampoline or springboard, commonly used in gymnastics training or gymnasium at schools. This type of trampoline are usually used with a user run up/ before jumping at the trampoline. This trampoline provides a powerful rebound. The trampoline features a small, square jumping surface with a red cross in the center to help athletes aim and maintain control during use. The frame is equipped with blue mat for added safety. It is supported by a sturdy white metal base, which appears adjustable to modify its angle or height, making it versatile for different training purposes.**	**No play value** **Intended for sport activities** **Not for domestic use**

Trampolines for public use **9**	**N**	**Playground equipment Jumping surface: dimensions of the jumping mat: 250 x 150 cm. Total surface with border (in Length x Width): 310 x 210 cm. Description of how it is built: the jumping mat is made of plastic compounds and the border around it in rubber granulate. The frame + springs made of hot-dip galvanized steel**	**EN 1176-1: 2017+A1:2023 Playground equipment and surfacing - Part 1: General safety requirements and test methods** **Play value but not for domestic use**
Trampoline parks  **10**	**N**	**Trampoline park venue with multiple trampolines and/or trampoline courts. Trampoline parks are offered both stand-alone and in conjunction with other (active) leisure activities.**	**ISO 23659:2022 Sports and recreational facilities – Trampoline parks – Safety requirements** **Play value but not for domestic use**