

dti

Department of Trade and Industry

Consumer Safety Unit



**SHOPPER'S
GUIDE
TO SAFER
NIGHTWEAR
AND
BABYWEAR**



Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to fire risks. Nightwear Regulations* mean that you can choose nightwear and babywear which is safer from fire.

There are different requirements for different garments, so it's worth getting to know what they are, and what the various labels mean. Then, wherever possible choose **low flammability fabrics**.

This leaflet will help you to know what to look for when choosing a safer garment for adults or children.

- Children's nightdresses, nightshirts, dressing gowns and bathrobes (except bathrobes made from 100% terry towelling) **must** all pass a test for slow burning fabrics. So these garments don't need an additional LOW FLAMMABILITY label and won't usually carry one.
- Children's pyjamas, bathrobes made from 100% terry towelling, all adults nightwear and clothes (whether or not nightwear) for babies up to 3 months old **must** carry a permanent label showing whether or not the garment pass the LOW FLAMMABILITY test for slow burning. The labels will look like

this...

LOW FLAMMABILITY TO
BS 5722

or this...

LOW FLAMMABILITY TO
BS 5722
KEEP AWAY FROM
FIRE

They're the labels to look out for when you're choosing these garments.

If you see this label...

KEEP AWAY FROM FIRE

the garment probably hasn't passed the low flammability test and is not slow burning, so you'll need to take extreme care.

*The Nightwear (Safety) Regulations (as amended in 1987).



In mail-order catalogues, the symbols are slightly different but the rules are the same:

**LOW
FLAM**

LOW FLAM means the garment has passed the test, KEEP AWAY FROM FIRE means that it probably hasn't.



So...unless you're buying a garment that doesn't need a label (see left), look for the **LOW FLAMMABILITY** mark for safer nightwear. But remember, even if your garment is made from a

low flammability fabric, you still need to take great care anywhere near a fire or a flame.

If you make your own nightwear, choose a **LOW FLAMMABILITY** material (the patterns you buy should give advice on this). Generally speaking, nylon or polyester fabrics are safer than cotton, cotton mixture, or acrylic ones. Make sure you use thread and trimmings made from the same fibre as the garment material, to maintain its slow burning quality.



AND IT'S NOT JUST AT NIGHT THAT YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE

- Avoid drawstrings, or ribbons that tie round hoods and necklines on all clothing for babies – they could pull too tight and strangle your baby. Avoid pompoms and toggles anywhere near the neck—they could get caught in your baby's throat and cause choking.
- Don't buy or knit things for babies in nylon with an open weave pattern. Nylon's very strong, and can get caught tight round a tiny finger, cutting off the blood supply.
- It's very obvious, but keep an eye out for loose buttons, press studs and other fastenings. If they come off a garment they can easily be swallowed and could cause choking.
- Loose clothing (like shell suits) can easily catch fire. So take extra care whenever there's an open fire nearby – bonfires, barbecues etc.

Always keep your children well away from fires.

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