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Third edition
2021-08

Writing and marking instruments — Specification for caps to reduce the risk of asphyxiation

*Instruments pour l'écriture et le marquage — Spécifications pour les
capuchons afin de réduire le risque d'asphyxie*



Reference number
ISO 11540:2021(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 10, *Technical product documentation*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 11540:2014), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes to the previous edition are as follows:

- [Clause 2](#), Normative references, has been introduced and the clause numbering changed accordingly;
- In [A.3.2](#) the reference to [A.3.3](#) has been corrected to [A.3.1](#);
- NOTE 1 and NOTE 2 have been deleted from [Figure B.1](#);
- minor editorial changes.

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Introduction

If a child inhales a pen cap it might become lodged below the larynx and block the trachea. The risk of asphyxiation can be reduced if the pen cap is ventilated or too large to enter the airway. Children must be actively discouraged from sucking, chewing or putting pen caps in their mouths. A way of avoiding the risk of inhalation of caps of writing and marking instruments is to manufacture products without caps whenever possible. However, if caps are essential, the provisions of this document minimize risk by specifying the design and performance of ventilated caps, which reduce the likelihood of inhalation and delay asphyxiation pending medical intervention.

ISO/TC 10 recognizes that while it is possible to identify the age range of the children who are most at risk, it is not possible to identify with certainty any writing instruments with detachable caps that would never be accessible to children and hence never pose a risk. It is, however, acknowledged that certain products (i.e. writing and marking instruments which are designed or only intended for use by adults, e.g. jewellery pens, expensive fountain pens, professional technical pens) are not intended for use by children and such items must be clearly labelled to that effect.