

NEXT Group Policy Document

Product Safety Policy

Date: 28/02/2025

Policy Summary:

Scope: This policy applies to the following products sold by NEXT: (i) NEXT own branded products (i.e. "NEXT"); (ii) brands owned by NEXT and its group companies (e.g. MADE, Cath Kidston, etc.); (ii) products that NEXT makes under licence (e.g. Paul Smith kidswear, Ted Baker kidswear, etc.); and (iii) third party products manufactured by third parties.

Sharing Permissions: Public

Background

NEXT ensures the safety of its products for its consumers. This is a requirement for conducting responsible business, and an essential element of building and maintaining public trust in our own brand products and the products we place on to the market.

Product safety is applicable to all products manufactured by or supplied to NEXT and affects all our supply chain partners from raw materials to finished products.

Before a product is placed on the market, its safety must be thoroughly evaluated to comply with the General Product Safety Regulations (GPSR) in both the UK and EU. At NEXT Group, our product technologists employ risk assessment tools throughout the product development process. These assessments are crucial for identifying potential hazards and evaluating the likelihood of harm, forming a key component of our product risk management strategy. This approach is essential for minimising the risk of accidents and injuries to consumers. These evaluations are mandatory and can commence throughout the development of a product.

As a guide, we administer our product safety programmes by following these principles:

- NEXT Group and any Third Party Brand partners' product we place onto the market must meet applicable legislative and regulatory requirements with respect to product safety and labelling in the countries they are made available to the consumer.
- NEXT Group and Third Party Brand partners are required to co-operate with government agencies (e.g. Consumer Protection agencies, Local Authorities and Trading Standards) to provide them with relevant and appropriate factual information regarding the safety of our products and packaging.
- NEXT Group and Third Party Brand products are safe for consumers, when used as intended.

This is part of NEXT Group's commitment to protect consumers of all products placed on the market.

Objectives

The requirements set out in this policy, **The General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GB GPSR) & The General Product Safety Regulation 2023 (EU GSPR)** aim to:

- Ensure the safety of all products, including those linked to new technologies
- Address challenges posed by the growth of online sales and in particular via online marketplaces
- Ensures visibility and traceability back to the producer
- Improves the effectiveness of recalls of dangerous products in the hands of consumers
- Ensures a better enforcement of the rules and more efficient market surveillance

In order to manage product safety, NEXT Group works closely with trade associations, British Standards, government departments & European Committees and is an active participant in the working groups responsible for developing standards to ensure the safety of products. We also contribute to and support legislation development by giving our views and ideas. We are members of various industry committees and groups, such as the British Standards Institute Technical Committees and the British Retail Consortium. Through these we are able to participate with other stakeholders in policy debates, to contribute to their development and ensure NEXT Group & Third Party Brand partners' products are compliant with relevant legislation.

NEXT Group's product safety standards have been developed to comply with relevant consumer legislation and compliance requirements. Technologists in the group's product teams work closely with their suppliers to provide expert guidance so the right materials are chosen to manufacture safe, high quality and durable products in factories with robust manufacturing process controls to ensure product safety.

NEXT Group technologists from the UK head office or global sourcing offices visit their suppliers to monitor

production. Products are either inspected in country, upon receipt into our UK warehouses, or a combination of both, to ensure they meet our specifications. Our safety standards are based as a minimum, on the British, European and International standards and legal requirements.

If we are not satisfied with a product's safety, or if a product fails to comply with legal requirements, NEXT Group has an established procedure in place to recall a product as the safety of our customers is our priority. Through our Product Safety Forum, chaired by our Business Risk Manager, product recalls are reviewed to ensure the corrective actions undertaken are robust.

In addition to testing with major international accredited laboratories, NEXTs in-house UKAS1 and SATRA accredited product testing laboratory, based at Head Office, is used to undertake testing for our internal Product teams to support their assessment decisions and product reviews to ensure products perform to the required standards.

Requirements

NEXT Group makes this policy available on its website (nextplc.co.uk). NEXT Group's suppliers (including brand partners) must supply NEXT Group with products that consistently comply with the statements outlined in this policy, meeting all relevant legal, safety and performance requirements.

Enforcement

NEXT Group actively monitors compliance with the obligations outlined in this policy. As part of the due diligence we undertake, we periodically conduct risk assessments and un-announced spot checks, alongside surveillance testing, to ensure finished products from our warehouses meet the required quality, legal and safety requirements. The results of these evaluations are utilised internally and shared with our partners, brands and suppliers. Should a product fail to comply with the applicable legal or safety standards, the appropriate corrective actions will be implemented to address and rectify the issue.

In the event of non-conformance, a root cause analysis is conducted with the relevant partner, brand or supplier to identify the source of the issue. Corrective action plans are then implemented to ensure safety and prevent recurrence of the issue identified.

Appendix

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-product-safety-regulations-2005/general-product-safety-regulations-2005-great-britain>
2. <https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate/#/screen/pages/productSafetyLegislation>
3. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0988>

Version History

Date	Page	Comment
12.03.2025	All	V1