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SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAGS AND BACKPACKS

Document prepared in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/988 on General Product Safety (GPSR)

Purpose of the Document

The purpose of these instructions is to ensure the safe use of bags and backpacks by identifying potential hazards and presenting practical preventive measures, in line with current European Union product safety requirements.

1. General Hazards and Precautionary Measures

1.1 Risk of Physical Injury

- Do not overload the bag or backpack beyond the recommended weight specified by the manufacturer to avoid straining muscles, joints, or the spine.
- Ensure that straps and handles are properly attached and undamaged before use.
- Avoid carrying a bag or backpack on one shoulder for extended periods—distribute the weight evenly across both shoulders when using backpacks.
- Make sure the straps are well-fitted to prevent slipping or excessive pressure on the body.

1.2 Mechanical Hazards

- Regularly check the condition of zippers, buckles, and seams—damaged components can lead to item loss or injury.
- Do not place sharp objects inside without proper protection to avoid damage or injury.
- Avoid dragging the bag or backpack over rough surfaces, which may lead to wear and reduced functionality.

1.3 Chemical Hazards

- For bags or backpacks made of new materials, such as synthetic leather or plastics, air out the product before first use to reduce inhalation of volatile chemicals.
- Avoid storing damp items inside to prevent mold or bacterial growth.

1.4 Risks for Children

- Do not allow small children to play with bags or backpacks—straps, buckles, or small components may pose choking or strangulation hazards.
 - Ensure that children use backpacks appropriate for their size and weight to avoid overloading their spine.
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2. Specific Hazards and How to Minimize Them

2.1 Use in Harsh Weather Conditions

- In case of rain or humidity, use water-resistant bags/backpacks or an additional protective cover.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to moisture to prevent damage to materials or contents.
- If the bag/backpack gets wet, dry it thoroughly in a well-ventilated area, away from direct heat sources like radiators.

2.2 Storage of Hazardous Items

- Do not store chemicals, flammable, or toxic substances in the bag/backpack, as they may pose a health or environmental risk.
- When carrying electronics such as laptops, use padded compartments to prevent mechanical damage.

2.3 Carrying in Crowded Places

- In public places, such as public transport, keep your bag/backpack close to your body to reduce the risk of theft or accidental snagging.

- Use anti-theft features, such as hidden zippers or straps, in high-risk areas.

2.4 Long-Term Use

- When carrying heavy backpacks for long periods, take regular breaks to relieve your spine and shoulders.
 - Use backpacks with ergonomic shoulder straps and back support to minimize the risk of back pain or injury.
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3. Maintenance and Cleaning

3.1 Preparation

- Before cleaning, empty the bag/backpack completely and check all pockets.
- Read the manufacturer's label for cleaning and maintenance recommendations.

3.2 External Cleaning

- Use a soft, damp cloth with mild detergent to clean the surface.
- For stains on textile materials, use gentle cleaning products suitable for the fabric type.
- Avoid harsh chemicals such as bleach, which may damage the material or color.

3.3 Internal Cleaning

- Remove dust and small debris from the interior using a vacuum with a narrow nozzle or a soft brush.
- If the interior is damp, leave the bag/backpack open in a ventilated area until fully dry.

3.4 Maintenance of Mechanical Components

- Regularly inspect the condition of zippers and buckles—lubricate zippers if necessary with dedicated zipper grease.

- Repair damaged seams or straps at an authorized service or tailor to prevent further damage.
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4. Additional Recommendations

4.1 Child Safety

- Ensure children do not place bags/backpacks over their heads or play with straps, which could result in strangulation.
- Store bags and backpacks out of reach of small children when not in use.

4.2 Ergonomic Use

- Adjust the strap length to distribute weight evenly on the back.
- When using shoulder bags, alternate sides to avoid unilateral body strain.
- For heavier loads, use backpacks with a waist or chest strap to improve stability and comfort.

4.3 Familiarization with Documentation

- Read the manufacturer's instructions or label before first use.
- Ensure the bag/backpack has CE marking (if applicable) and meets safety requirements.

4.4 Disposal

- Used bags and backpacks, especially those with plastic or metal components, should be taken to textile waste or recycling collection points according to local regulations.
 - Before disposal, ensure the bag/backpack is empty of all personal belongings.
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Summary

Following these safety guidelines helps minimize the risk of injury, damage to the bag/backpack, and threats to health or the environment. Use bags and backpacks responsibly, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and applicable EU legislation, to ensure safety for yourself and those around you.