



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

February 14, 2008

Mr. Len Morrissey
ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Dear Mr. Morrissey:

On behalf of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff,* I am writing to request that ASTM International coordinate the development of a new ASTM consumer product safety standard to address infant suffocation associated with inflatable air mattresses.

CPSC databases contain records of 16 infant deaths caused by positional asphyxia associated with air mattresses. These infants were placed to sleep on air mattresses which were not designed or safe for infant use. The majority of the infants were younger than 5 months old, and the oldest was 12 months old. Eleven incidents involved infants asphyxiated due to the softness of the mattress, which compromised their airways. Other infants were trapped in gaps formed between the mattresses and adjacent furniture. These incidents suggest that inflatable air mattresses may not be firm enough to allow a sleeping infant to maintain an open airway and that inflatable air mattress edges might form gaps more easily than other types of mattresses when placed close to walls or furniture.

CPSC staff believes that consumers may not perceive the hazard of using air mattresses with their sleeping infants. CPSC staff requests that a new ASTM national consensus safety standard be developed under the oversight of the ASTM F-15 Committee on Consumer Products. Potential strategies to address the hazard include on-product warnings and graphics, safety instructions, and packaging warnings.

* These comments are those of CPSC staff, have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

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Enclosed are: (1) a recent CPSC safety alert entitled, Air Mattresses Are Not For Infants, (2) a press release addressing hazards to infants associated with air mattress use, and (3) a list of potentially interested organizations which may wish to participate in the development of the standard. Please contact me at 301-504-7245 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda M. Edwards".

Colin B. Church *for CBC*
Voluntary Standards Coordinator

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Kitty Pilarz, Chairman, ASTM F15 Committee
Mr. John Blair, Vice Chairman, New Projects, ASTM F15 Committee

Consumer Product Safety Alert

**FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207**

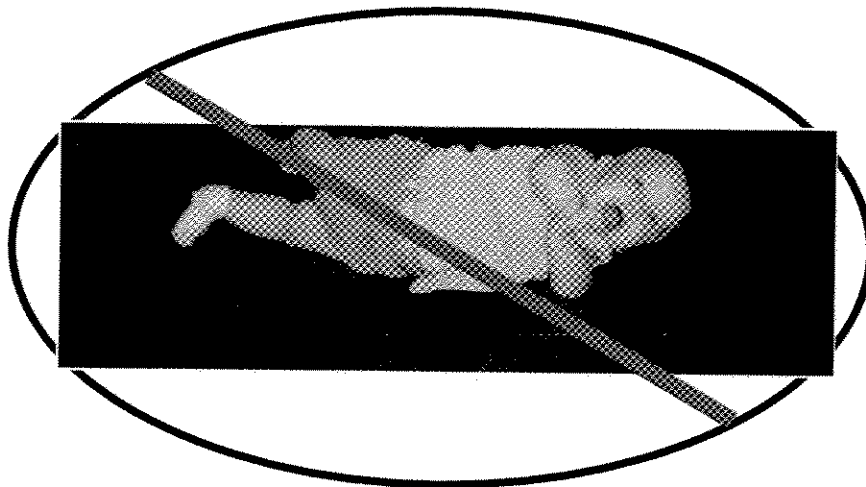
Air Mattresses Are Not For Infants

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning families nationwide that air mattresses are too soft for use with sleeping infants. Never place infants to sleep on air mattresses or other soft surfaces (such as water beds and adult beds), which are not specifically designed or safe for infant use.

Since 2002, CPSC has tragically received reports of 16 deaths, mostly infants younger than 8 months of age who were placed to sleep on air mattresses:

- 11 suffocated in a face down position on an air mattress.
- 5 died due to suffocation after falling into gaps between the mattress and bed frame and mattress and adjacent furniture or wall.

Generic twin-, full-, or queen-sized inflatable mattresses are usually intended for adults and older children. Even properly inflated air mattresses are usually too soft for infants to maintain a clear airway. Air leaks and under-inflation also contributes to incidents. Pay close attention to product warnings and assembly instructions.



NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2007

Release #08-137

CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Deadly Danger: CPSC Urges Parents To Not Place Infants on Air Mattresses

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This is the season when homes fill up with gifts and guests. When traveling, parents may choose alternative sleeping environments for babies. The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning families nationwide that air mattresses are too soft for use with sleeping infants. Never place infants to sleep on air mattresses or other soft surfaces (such as water beds and adult beds), which are not specifically designed or safe for infant use.

Since 2002, CPSC has received reports of 16 tragic deaths, mostly infants younger than 8 months of age who were placed to sleep on air mattresses: 11 suffocated in a face down position on an air mattress and 5 died due to suffocation after falling into gaps between the mattress and bed frame and mattress and adjacent furniture or wall.

Generic twin-, full-, or queen-sized inflatable mattresses are usually intended for adults and older children. Even properly inflated air mattresses are usually too soft for infants to maintain a clear airway. Air leaks and under-inflation also contribute to incidents.

Wherever your baby sleeps should be as safe as possible. CPSC recommends these safe sleeping tips:

- Always place your baby to sleep on his or her back to reduce the risk of SIDS.
- Never place baby to sleep on an adult bed. Infants can suffocate on bedding or can become entrapped between the mattress and bed frame or mattress and wall.
- When using a crib, make sure it meets current safety standards, has a firm, tight-fitting mattress and tight-fitting bottom sheet.
- When using a portable crib or play yard, be sure to use only the mattress or pad provided by the manufacturer.

Send the link for this page to a friend! The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$800 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpscilst.aspx>. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

Potential Interested Parties

Aero Products International, Inc.

1834 Walden Office Square, Third Floor
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Air Cloud Air Beds

The Coleman Company, Inc.

3600 North Hydraulic
Wichita, KS 67219
Tel: 1-800-835-3278
TDD: 316-832-8707
E-mail: consumerservice@coleman.com
Website: www.coleman.com

Intex Recreation Corp.

U.S. Sales Office
P.O. Box 1440
Long Beach, CA 90801-1440
Tel: (310) 549-5400
Fax: (310) 513-6905
Website: www.intexcorp.com

Sevylor, by Stearns Inc.

1100 Stearns Drive
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Tel: 320-252-1642 or Toll Free 1-800-328-3208
Fax: 320-252-4425

Sumo Air

12111 Judah Ave.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Wenzel, owned by American Recreation Products

1224 Fern Ridge Pkwy.
St. Louis, MO 63141
Tel: 314-576-8000
Fax: 314-576-8072

Consumer Federation of America

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Consumer's Union

Donald L. Mays
101 Truman Avenue
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Tel: 914-378-2000

Keeping Babies Safe

Jack Walsh
Corporate Headquarters
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San Leandro, CA 94577
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E-mail: JackWalsh39@aol.com

Kids in Danger

Nancy Cowles
116 W. Illinois, Suite 5E
Chicago, IL 60610-4522
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Safe Kids Worldwide

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E-mail: info@safekids.org