



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

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NANCY NORD
ACTING CHAIRMAN

THOMAS H. MOORE
COMMISSIONER

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Baby Safety Month

Since September is **Baby Safety Month**, we want to highlight the safety of infants and toddlers, especially where they eat, sleep and play.

Too often we see deaths and injuries involving pillows, blankets and similar products in the nursery. However, when cribs, playpens or bassinets are found to be defective, we are ready to aggressively take action, as we recently have done for certain [Jardine cribs](#) and [Simplicity cribs and bassinets](#).

I'm pleased the CPSC will now have additional tools to enhance our ongoing efforts to protect our youngest consumers. President Bush recently signed the **Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act** into law. It will provide the CPSC additional authorities and enforcement tools, many of which I requested of Congress last year.

It's a complex bill (page two of this issue outlines the major components). Clearly, there will be significant changes in what we do and how we do it. These new tools and responsibilities will further enhance our very important mission: to ensure the safety of consumer products for American families.

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman



Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act

The **Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act** recently passed Congress with overwhelming support. The bill passed by 424-to-1 in the House and 89-to-3 in the Senate. This legislation gives CPSC expanded authority for a wide range of consumer products. Outlined here are some of the key components of the law, which will be phased in over time. In the weeks and months to come, more details and information will be available.



“I applaud the fact that Congress has given the CPSC many of the additional authorities and enforcement tools I requested last year. I intend to see to it that all the provisions in the legislation are implemented in the way that best serves consumers.”

— *Acting Chairman Nancy Nord*

OTHER PROVISIONS

Product Safety Database

If funded by Congress, CPSC will establish a searchable, web-based database on the safety of consumer products. Consumers, health care providers, and others will be able to submit and view product incident reports online and in a timely manner.

Sale of Recalled Products Prohibited

The sale, manufacture, importation or distribution of a recalled product or a product that does not conform to any applicable safety rule is prohibited.

Penalties

Maximum civil penalties for violations increase to \$15 million from \$1.825 million. Criminal penalties for violations may now include imprisonment, fines and asset forfeiture.

Whistleblower Protections

No private employee may be discriminated against for providing information on violations of any rule, standard or regulation enforced by CPSC.

All Terrain Vehicles

ATVs distributed in the U.S. must comply with a new mandatory safety standard and manufacturers must reach agreement with the Commission on training, advertising, and other issues. Also, the manufacture and sale of new 3-wheeled ATVs is now expressly prohibited until further Commission action.

CHILDREN’S PRODUCT SAFETY

Lead Paint and Lead in Children’s Products

Children’s products are subject to strict new limits on lead content and lead in paint.

Mandatory Third-Party Testing

Manufacturers must certify compliance with safety standards before importing or distributing. Children’s products must be tested by an accredited, independent third-party laboratory.

Tracking labels

Manufacturers shall place identifying marks on children’s products and their packaging to indicate the location and date of production.

Registration and New Standards for Durable Nursery Products

To improve the effectiveness of recalls, manufacturers of cribs, toddler beds, high chairs and other durable nursery products must provide postage-paid registration cards. Also, the CPSC will set forth new, mandatory safety standards for durable nursery products.

Mandatory Toy Standards

New toy standards take effect in six months and CPSC must evaluate and consider even stronger standards for children’s products with magnets, cords, straps and elastics, battery-operated toys, and other products.

Phthalates

The sale of certain products containing three types of phthalates is prohibited permanently. Other phthalates are temporarily banned in children’s products pending further study.



“Congress was nearly unanimous in its support of our agency and of the need for CPSC to have better enforcement tools and more resources. It is now up to the agency to use the resources wisely and the enforcement tools vigorously. The American consumer deserves no less.”

— *Commissioner Thomas H. Moore*



Home Injuries

The home is a place that gives families a feeling of safety and security. However, each year, many consumer product-related deaths and injuries occur in the home.

CPSC staff works every day to reduce the number of deaths and injuries to children in the home. It is a pursuit that binds our agency to all families in every community. The “Nursery Safety” article on the next page has tips from our experts on how to prevent some of these accidents in the home.

Consumers, particularly parents, should strive to prevent these home hazards:

- **Nursery products:** An average of 80 fatalities related to nursery products are reported annually. Most deaths are associated with cribs, baby baths/bath seats, and playpens. Falls from infant carriers/car seats, cribs, and strollers/carriages were associated with the majority of the estimated 66,400 U.S. emergency department treated injuries to children younger than 5 in 2006.
- **Tip-Overs:** CPSC received 180 reports of fatalities between 2000–2006 related to tip-overs of furniture, televisions or appliances. Children younger than 3 years of age comprised 62 percent of these deaths.
- **Window Falls:** About 3,700 children younger than 10 years of age are treated annually, on average, in U.S. emergency departments for injuries associated with falls from windows. Annually, an average of nine children younger than 10 years of age die as a result of injuries associated with falls from windows.
- **Drowning:** An average of 104 children younger than 5 years of age drown annually in home products such as bathtubs, buckets, and decorative yard equipment.
- **Choking:** In 2007, there were an estimated 3,400 choking injuries to children younger than 3 that were treated in U.S. emergency departments. Three choking related fatalities for children younger than 3 have been reported to CPSC staff since January 2007.
- **Poisonings:** An average of 33 reports of poisoning fatalities for children younger than 5 years of age are received by CPSC staff annually. More than 81,000 unintentional child poisoning incidents were treated in emergency departments in 2006.
- **Toys:** For 2006, CPSC staff received reports of 22 toy-related deaths for children younger than 15 years of age. Riding toys, toy nails and pegs and rubber balls were associated with most of the deaths. During that same year, an estimated 165,100 children younger than 15 were treated in U.S. emergency departments for toy-related injuries.



Download the
“Hidden Hazards”
poster!



Nursery Safety

This month marks the 25th Anniversary of Baby Safety Month and CPSC would like to encourage parents and caregivers to focus on safety in the nursery.



Meet CPSC child safety experts, Dr. Suad Wanna-Nakamura, Patricia Hackett, and Dr. Jonathan Midgett with a combined 35 years of experience at CPSC in physiology, engineering, and infant behavior.

“We are aware of 97 crib related deaths from 2002 through 2004,” says Dr. Jonathan Midgett, Human Factors Psychologist. “Babies spend much of their time sleeping and need a safe environment.”


“Over half of these were attributed to soft bedding or other accessories in or around the crib. Another 25% resulted from cribs with broken or missing components,” adds Patricia Hackett, CPSC Engineer specializing in Child Sleep Environments.

While many new parents are preoccupied with making the nursery beautiful, these CPSC experts urge all parents, new and experienced, to think about safety first and foremost.

“Following a few simple rules (listed below) will keep babies sleeping safely, and might give parents a better night’s sleep knowing their child is safe,” recommends Dr. Saud Wanna-Nakamura, Physiologist and Child-Safety Expert.

- **To reduce the risk of SIDS** — Put the baby to sleep on his/her back.
- **To prevent suffocation** — Never place pillows or thick quilts in a baby’s sleep environment. Also, make sure there are no gaps larger than two fingers between the sides of the crib and the mattress.
- **Proper assembly of cribs is paramount** — Follow the instructions provided and make sure that every component included is used. If you are not sure, call the manufacturer for assistance.
- **Do not use old, broken or modified cribs** — Infants can strangle to death if their bodies pass through gaps between loose components or broken slats while their heads remain entrapped.
- **Properly set up play yards according to manufacturers’ directions** — Only use the mattress pad provided with the play yard.
- **Never place a crib near a window with blind or curtain cords** — Babies can strangle on curtain or blind cords.



 [More about Nursery Safety](#)



RECALL SPOTLIGHT


Infants Strangled to Death in Simplicity Bassinets: CPSC Urges Consumers To Stop Using Simplicity 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 Convertible “Close-Sleeper” Models

CPSC learned that on August 21, 2008, a 6½-month-old girl from Shawnee, Kansas was strangled to death when she became entrapped between the bassinet’s metal bars. This is the second strangulation death CPSC has learned of in the co-sleeper bassinets. On September 29, 2007, a 4-month-old girl from Noel, Missouri became entrapped in the metal bars of the bassinet and died.

The Simplicity 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 convertible bassinets contain metal bars that are covered by an adjustable fabric flap which is attached by velcro. The fabric is folded down when the bassinet is converted into a bed-side co-sleeping position. If the velcro is not properly re-secured when the flap is adjusted, an infant can slip through the opening and become entrapped in the metal bars and suffocate. This warning does not cover bassinets produced in recent months that have fabric permanently attached over the lower bar.

Due to the serious hazard these bassinets pose to babies, CPSC urges all consumers to share this safety warning with day care centers, consignment stores, family and friends to ensure that no child is placed to sleep in a Simplicity convertible bassinet covered by this warning.



 For Information on Obtaining a Refund

SIGN UP for recalls



Sign up for this FREE resource! Signing up is easy, it’s fast, and it could save your life or the life of a family member. Simply provide us with your e-mail address, and start receiving important information today. As soon as there’s a recall, you’ll know about it.

 SIGN UP NOW



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CPSC Recall Hotline 800-638-2772

RECENT RECALLS



Vacuum Accessory Tools

TTI Floor Care North America, of Glenwillow, Ohio, is recalling about 987,000 Dirt Devil Vacuum Power Brush Attachment Tools. Plastic pieces inside the vacuum tool can break apart and be ejected, posing a laceration hazard to consumers.



Remote-Controlled Helicopter Toys

Innovage LLC, of Foothill Ranch, California, is recalling about 685,000 "Sky Scrambler" and "The Sharper Image" Wireless Indoor Helicopters. The rechargeable lithium-ion battery inside the helicopters can overheat, catch fire, and ignite nearby combustibles, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.



Children's Necklaces

Parragon Books Ltd., of United Kingdom, is recalling about 500,000 Children's Necklaces with Ballet Shoes Charms. Solder on the charm of the necklace may contain high levels of lead, which if ingested by young children can cause adverse health effects.



Power Supplies

RadioShack Corp., of Fort Worth, Texas, is recalling about 160,000 13.8V DC Power Supplies. The recalled power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards.



Personalized Pacifiers

It's My Binky, of Henderson, Nevada, is recalling about 115,000 It's My Binky's Personalized Pacifiers. The pacifier button, ring handle and shield with nipple can detach, posing a choking hazard to infants.



Horseshoe Magnets

Dowling Magnets, of Sonoma, California, is recalling about 91,500 Classic Horseshoe Magnets. The plastic coating on the magnets contains excessive levels of lead, which violates the federal lead paint standard.



Fireworks

Fireworks Over America, of Springfield, Missouri, is recalling about 84,250 Oh Chute Parachute with Streamer Fireworks. The parachutes can become entangled in overhead power lines causing a shock hazard to users and bystanders.



Lip Gloss and Jewelry Sets

F.A.F. Inc., of Greenville, Rhode Island, is recalling about 30,000 "Faded Glory" Lip Gloss, Locket, and Bracelet Sets. The lobster claw clasp on the bracelet contains high levels of lead, which is toxic if ingested and can cause adverse health effects.



Lawn Mowers

American Honda Motor Corp., of Torrance, California, is recalling about 20,500 Honda Lawn Mowers. The lawn mower's rear shield can break off allowing debris to be thrown toward the operator, which poses a laceration hazard to consumers.



Exercise Bicycles

Reebok International Ltd., of Canton, Massachusetts, is recalling about 20,000 Reebok Studio Exercise Cycles. The alloy cranks on the exercise cycles can break during use, posing a laceration and abrasion hazard to users.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.