



**UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207**

Memorandum

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TO : Eric R. Criss, Director, Office of Information and Public Affairs

THROUGH: Nicholas Marchica, Acting Assistant Executive Director, Office of Compliance
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SUBJECT : FY2004 Recalls and Corrective Actions Announced for Toys and Other Children's Products

The Office of Compliance during fiscal year 2004 announced 97 recalls and corrective actions that involved toys, a variety of children's products and bicycles, bicycle components or accessories. A summary of these recalls and corrective actions is presented at Parts I and Part II.

Part I includes a total of 28 recall actions for products that violated mandatory safety regulations. The breakdown of the recall actions is: 4 involving bunk beds; 2 involving bicycle helmets; 3 involving products that contained high levels of lead in paint; 5 involving toy metal jewelry items that contained dangerous levels of lead; 2 involving infant pillows; 3 involving pacifiers; 2 involving children's sleepwear; and 7 involving toys.

Part II includes a total of 69 recalls or corrective actions for toys, children's products, and bicycles that present hazards not addressed by mandatory safety standards. These include 4 involving children's books; 1 involving soft infant carriers; 3 involving children's furniture items; 2 involving cribs; 1 involving infant swings; 3 involving playground equipment; 2 involving baby walkers; 10 involving children's garments; 17 involving toys; 12 involving miscellaneous items; 3 involving ride-on-toys; 3 involving children's shoes; 2 involving strollers; and 6 involving bicycles or bicycle components or accessories.

FY 2004 Recalls

	Section 15 Recalls *	Regulated Product Recalls	# Units Recalled
# of Recalls Announced	69	28	
Toys and Other Children's Products # Units Distributed and Subject to Recall	4,798,756	150,701,147	155,499,903
Bicycles or Components/Accessories # Units Distributed and Subject to Recall	29,425		29,425
Units Subject to Recall	4,828,181	150,701,147	155,529,328

* Section 15 recalls include only consumer level recalls for which there was an announcement.

PART I

REGULATED PRODUCTS RECALL SUMMARY

There were a total of 28 voluntary recalls or other corrective actions for products subject to the Commission's safety standards.

Bunk beds (4)

Gaps or openings between parts of the bunk beds were too large. The bunk beds failed to meet federal standards designed to protect children against entrapment and strangulation. A total of **48,152** units distributed were recalled.

Bicycle Helmets (2)

The helmets failed impact testing required under the federal standard for bicycle helmets. A total of **13,600** units distributed were recalled.

Lead-in-Paint (3)

Green coating on a wooden clacker rhythm instrument, red paint on chairs and the surface coating on and the metal in ship game pieces contain amounts of lead that exceed federal standards for children's products. A total of **24,308** units distributed were recalled.

Other Regulated Chemical Hazard (5) *

Toy metal jewelry sold in vending machines and of various styles of rings, necklaces and bracelets contains dangerous levels of lead, posing a risk of lead poisoning to children. The amounts of lead exceed federal standards for children's products. A total of **150,373,852** units distributed were recalled.

* 1 recall announced separately was later included in an expanded recall conducted by 4 firms.

Infant Pillows (2)

If infants are placed on these pillows and left unattended, there is a risk of suffocation. Infant pillows and cushions are banned under the federal law. A total of **9,000** units distributed were recalled.

Pacifiers (3)

The pacifiers are banned under federal law. They failed federal safety tests, come apart, and can pose a choking hazard to infants and small children. A total of **118, 815** units distributed were recalled.

Children's Sleepwear garments (2)

Pajamas and loungewear failed to meet federal flammability standards for children's sleepwear posing a risk of serious burn injuries to children. The standard requires sleepwear, including loungewear, to be flame resistant and if the garment ignites, the flame must self-extinguish. A total of **12,204** units distributed were recalled.

Toys (7)

Six recalls involved toys that failed to meet the federal standard for small parts and presented a choking or aspiration hazard to young children. One toy key chain failed to meet the federal standard for technical requirements for determining a sharp point in toys and other articles intended for use by children under 8 years of age. A total of **101,216** units distributed were recalled.

PART II

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FEDERAL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACT

Children's Activity Books (4)

- activity book: the hub of the pink dial embedded in the inside back cover of the book can come off during use in some books, posing a choking hazard
- Easter book: the "touch and feel" sponge item inside the book can detach or small pieces can be torn away, posing a choking hazard
- vinyl book: the mirror in the books can crack or break, posing a laceration hazard
- board book: the sound maker inside the last page of the books pose a choking hazard

At least **449,300** units distributed were recalled.

Carriers (1)

front load "soft" infant carrier – the back support buckle can detach from the shoulder straps, posing a fall hazard to the baby

At least **49,000** units distributed were recalled.

Children's Furniture (3)

"poof" chairs and table set – a metal rod can protrude through the fabric and its sharp edges could cause scratches or cuts

wooden chair – leg supports can crack, causing the chair to collapse – children sitting in chairs can fall

director's chair – misassembled chairs can cause the fabric seat to come off the chair's frame and expose metal support rods, if fabric comes off frame, there is a laceration and fall hazard to young children

At least **84,655** units distributed were recalled.

Cribs (2)

- cribs: slats on the drop side rail can loosen and detach, space created by the gaps can allow a baby to become entangled, strangle or fall

- cribs: an incorrect screw (used to attach the moveable gate) was provided for assembly of cribs, posing a risk that a child could fall from the crib or become entrapped between the gate and the mattress

At least **3,818** units distributed were recalled.

Infant Swings (1)

- carrying handle can fail to stay in place properly and drop or be pushed down, hitting a child in the face; the 3-point seatbelt can fail to prevent a child from leaning forward or to either side, posing a risk that the child can fall forward and strike his/her head on the floor or on the swing's frame

At least **140,000** units distributed were recalled.

Playground Equipment Items (3)

- plastic handle on swing could crack at the seat connection allowing the metal connecting rod to pull out, falls to the ground can occur
- chain on swings can detach during use and cause the child to fall to the ground
- swing seat can collapse when the weld between the side arch support and the top rail fail, falls can happen

At least **50,320** units distributed were recalled.

Baby walkers (2)

walkers fit through a standard doorway and do not stop at the edge of a step - stair falls could result in serious injuries or death

At least **21,600** units distributed were recalled.

Children's Garments (10)

- 1 jacket and 1 sweatshirt with hood drawstrings - children can get entangled and strangle in the drawstrings that catches on playground equipment, fences or tree branches
- 3 jackets and 1 swimsuit cover-up - zipper pulls can detach, posing a choking hazard
- 3 two-piece fleece pant sets with long waist drawstrings on jackets – drawstrings can catch on protrusions (bus doors or handles) potentially causing injury or death if the person is dragged by the vehicle
- 1 girls' infant and toddler romper – crocheted cherry-shape tassels and plastic buttons may pull off, posing a choking hazard

At least **887,168** units distributed were recalled.

Toys (17)

- stuffed toy: round stuffed feet on the spider can detach, posing a choking hazard
- seams on frog toy can tear open and expose small plastic pellets, posing a choking or aspiration hazard
- tips of sewing needles have been found in the stuffing of plush dolls, beanbags and key chains posing a puncture hazard
- push toy - screw securing the toy handle to the push toy could detach, posing a choking hazard
- radio controlled toy truck – a problem with the circuit board causes the toy truck to overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard
- wooden music radio – turn knob and antenna top can break off, posing a choking hazard and expose a sharp point
- football – football contains a hard plastic interior frame that can pose a risk of facial cuts if a child is hit

during play

- wood toy car - wheels on the toy car can come off, posing a choking hazard
- jack-in-the-box toys– beads on cranks can detach from two toys, posing a choking hazard; and a spring mechanism attached to the lid of one toy can break and detach from the toy, posing a choking hazard (3 recalls)
- crazy bounce ball toy – balls could break apart, posing a choking hazard
- bumble bee high chair toy with blue antennae: blue antennae on toy can break, posing a choking hazard
- racing toy car – air motor in cars can burst while being pumped up, causing parts of motor to break off and have sharp points, posing a risk of eye or laceration injuries
- toy car – the rear tail wings are made of rigid plastic and come to a point, which pose a potential puncture or laceration hazard
- toddler doll family set – the head and boot of the dolls can detach, posing a choking hazard
- peek-a-boo ball – wooden rings on the holes of the toy may crack, allowing the small wooden heads to fall out and pose a choking hazard

At least **1,544,945** units distributed were recalled.

Miscellaneous Items (12)

- zipper pull – zipper pulls could separate and detach from the zipper, posing a choking hazard
- pottery wheel kit – brown clay in kits could contain excess levels of bacteria, posing a risk of illness to users
- bunk bed – metal “j” hook on the guardrails can become dislodged allowing the guardrail to slide or move out of position, this can allow the guardrail to detach from the bunk bed or allow the occupant to roll off the top bunk
- girls’ straw cowboy hat – the tip of the thin wire inside the seam can break free posing a laceration hazard
- pool pump water gun – cone-shaped nozzle can unexpectedly come off the water gun and be propelled causing injury
- monster rocket super soaker – the cap on the water tank can unexpectedly and forcibly project off when it is quickly unscrewed from the tank, posing a risk of impact injuries to users or bystanders; and, the rocket’s tail can strike a user or bystander on descent if the rocket is not fully launched, posing a risk of injury
- water slide device – water slides have an excessive length of rope attached to the safety mat that presents a risk of entanglement in the water, posing a drowning hazard
- water bottle – pull-up black plastic drinking spout can detach, posing a choking hazard
- buggy board – the board’s red connecting pins can break, causing the board to partially detach from the stroller or carriage, resulting in falls
- activity cube – small parts can detach from the cube posing a choking hazard
- chalk- – chinks contain high levels of lead, posing a risk of poisoning to young children (2 recalls)

At least **511,150** units distributed were recalled.

Ride-On-Toys (3)

- scooters/mini bikes – the motor control circuits can malfunction causing the scooters and mini bikes to continue to run after the power or throttle button is released, posing a risk of injury
- toy ride-on trucks – the screw nut assembly attaching the steering wheel can come loose, posing a choking and aspiration hazard (5 models)
- kiddy car cruisers – the toy can continue to run when the accelerator is no longer depressed, riders can lose control of the car

At least **155,500** units distributed were recalled.

Children's Shoes (3)

Three firms recalled children's athletic shoes – choking hazards to young children posed because (1) a metal eyelet lace holder at the top of the shoes can detach, (2) a rubber tab at the top of the heel of the shoes can detach and (3) a logo-tab on the tongue of the shoes can peel off.

At least **590,000** units distributed were recalled.

Infant Strollers (2)

- if the stop pins are bent or missing or the seat is not fully attached, the seat can partially detach from the frame during use and the infant can be injured in a fall
- the fold joint can collapse unexpectedly causing the baby to fall

At least **311,300** units distributed were recalled.

Bicycles or Components/Accessories (6)

- brake rotor – 8-inch brake rotors have tabs that could break off, possibly causing the loss of control and fall from the bicycle
- rear shock absorber on certain frames flex severely, causing the frame to become unstable and break, posing the risk of injury to riders
- handlebars could unexpectedly loosen causing the rider to lose control of bicycle (**2 recalls**)
- handlebar can develop cracks, causing the handlebar to break without warning, resulting in serious injury or death
- internal part in the lever mechanism can break, reducing clamping effectiveness and rendering the bicycle inoperable, causing the bicyclist to fall

At least **29,425** units distributed were recalled.