

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION



Office of Compliance

Requirements¹ for Rattles, 16 C.F.R. Part 1510

What is the purpose of the rattle rule?

The rattle regulation prevents infants from choking or suffocating on rattles. The rule requires that

- (1) a rattle stay in one piece after certain tests and
- (2) a rattle be designed and constructed so that it cannot enter an infant's mouth and block his or her throat.

Where can I find the requirements for rattles?

The ban is published in the Code of Federal Regulations in Title 16, Part 1510.

What is a rattle?

A rattle is an infant toy that is

- (1) intended to be hand-held,
- (2) usually contains pellets or other small objects, and
- (3) makes noise when shaken.

Not all products that make noises similar to those made by rattles are rattles. Products like dolls, stuffed toys, crib mobiles and exercisers, plastic keys on chains, games and puzzles, and musical instruments such as tambourines and maracas are not rattles.

How do you test a rattle to make sure it can't choke a child?

Place the rattle in the opening in the test fixture (Figure 1) in the position that makes the rattle most likely to go through the opening. If any part of the rattle goes all the way through the opening without being pushed or pulled, the rattle fails.

Repeat this test after you perform impact, flexure, torque, tension and compression testing (see 16 C.F.R. 1500.51). These tests simulate the forces that a rattle may experience during normal use and abuse by children 0-18 months of age. If the rattle or any piece that comes off after this testing fits through the opening, the rattle fails.

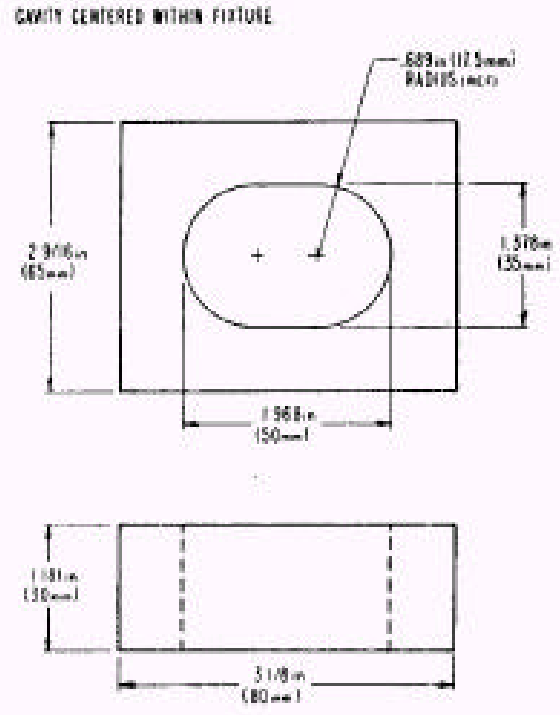


Figure 1- Rattle Test Fixture

Does CPSC have any other requirements that apply to rattles?

Yes. Rattles may not have sharp points or edges or be painted with paint that has more than .06 percent lead. (See 16 C.F.R. 1500.48, 16 C.F.R. 1500.49, and 16 C.F.R. Part 1303)

Are there any voluntary requirements under the Standard Consumer Safety Specification on Toy Safety, ASTM F963?

Yes. Neither the noisemaking part nor the handle of a rattle should end in a ball, half ball, or circular flare that may choke a child. If an end shaped like this goes all the way through the opening of the supplemental test fixture (Figure 2), the rattle may present a choking hazard.

¹ This document is a general summary of the rattle requirement and does not replace or supercede the requirements published in 16 C.F.R. 1510. This summary does not include all of the details included in those requirements. Please refer to the regulation for those details

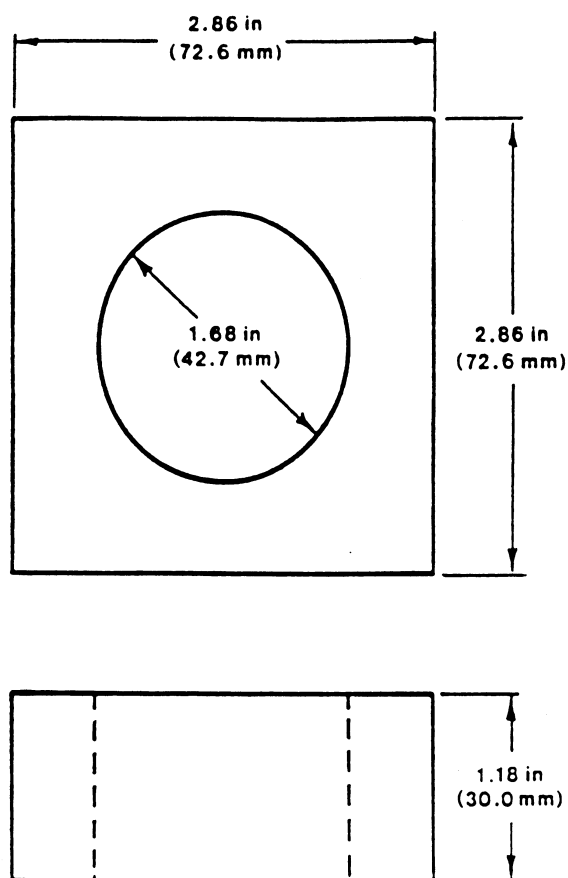


Figure 2 - Rattle Supplemental Test Fixture

Where can I find additional Information?

You can obtain the Requirements for Rattles, 16 C.F.R. Part 1510, from the Commission's Web Site at: <http://www.cpsc.gov>. For more information on the requirements for rattles contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance, Washington, D.C. 20207, telephone: (301) 504-7913, e-mail: sect15@cpsc.gov.

For copies of the Standard Consumer Safety Specification on Toy Safety (ASTM F 963) contact the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), 100 Barr Harbor, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2958, telephone: (610)-832-9585, Fax (610)-832-9555, or visit <http://www.astm.org>.