Requirements for Furniture for Sale in the United States

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Agenda

• Cribs
• Toddler Beds
• Bunk Beds
• Furniture
  – Unstable Furniture
  – Upholstered Furniture
Quick Facts

• Cribs, toddler beds, bunk beds can pose lethal and significant injury hazards, potentially affecting millions of households.

• Upholstered furniture hazards can cause significant damage and injuries in a very short time.
U.S. Furniture Requirements

Cribs
Examples-Crib Hazards

Photo 3.7: Closer view of detached side.
Examples--Crib Hazards
A SAFER GENERATION OF CRIBS

New Federal Requirements - From 2011

5 New Federal Requirements in 2011:

- Traditional drop-side cribs cannot be made or sold; immobilizers and repair kits not allowed
- Wood slats must be made of stronger woods to prevent breakage
- Crib hardware must have anti-loosening devices to keep it from coming loose or falling off
- Mattress supports must be more durable
- Safety testing must be more rigorous

Since June 28, 2011 all cribs sold in the United States have had to meet these new federal requirements for overall crib safety.

SafeSleep is a campaign of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
What to Look For

- No corner post extensions
- No decorative cut-outs on headboard or footboard
- No drop sides
- Smooth corners
- Strong hardware & secure mattress
- Strong slats
- Slat space 2 3/8"
- Snug mattress fit

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Safety Guidelines
www.cpsc.gov
Video: Testing
U.S. Furniture Requirements

Toddler Beds
Toddler Bed Hazards
What to Look For

– Guardrails
  • Height requirement
  • Performance

– Spindle/slat strength

– Separate warning labels re: strangulation and entrapment

– Paint composition evidence
Furniture Requirements

Bunk Beds
Bunk Bed Hazards
What to Look For

Guardrails

• Must have at least two upper bunk guardrails no less than five inches (12.7 cm) above top of mattress

• Guardrail on side next to wall must run full length to within 0.22 inches (0.558 cm) of end structure, if not attached to end structure
Bunk Bed Testing
Unstable Furniture Hazards
In the U.S., unstable and unsecured TVs and large pieces of furniture kill a child every two weeks, on average, in tip-over incidents that are easily preventable.
Recalled Furniture Examples
Technical Regulations

Regulatory process can be started by vote of the Commission or by a petition from an interested party.

CPSC statutes specify that voluntary standards should be relied upon whenever possible. A regulation may be issued if:

- the current voluntary standard does not adequately reduce the risk
- there is not substantial compliance.
Importance of Using U.S. Technical Regulations and Voluntary Standards

To avoid entry problems with the U.S. government (Customs and CPSC), foreign manufacturers MUST comply with:

- Mandatory CPSC Regulations

Manufacturers SHOULD also comply with:

- Private Sector Standards (consensus voluntary standards)

Both play essential safety roles.
Primary Voluntary Standards Development Organizations Relied Upon by U.S. Industry

ANSI (American National Standards Institute)
- Motorized Equipment
- Lawn & Garden Equipment
- Household Products
- Safety Labeling

ASTM International
- Children’s Products
- Recreational Products

Recognized listing organization
- Electrical and other products
• In the United States, some states have laws and regulations that are more strict than federal requirements. These laws include regulations for products, labeling, packaging, and chemical restrictions (e.g., flame-retardant chemicals).

• Your customer (importer) should know these requirements.

Furniture Standards

Upholstered Furniture Flammability
Upholstereded Furniture 
Flammability

• The CPSC is involved in ongoing rulemaking on Upholstereded Furniture Flammability

• Two primary hazard categories:
  ➢ Smoldering ignition of Upholstered Furniture – largest percentage of incidents
  ➢ Open-Flame ignition of Upholstered Furniture
Example-Video: Testing Comparison of Barriers
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Highlights of Requirements for Furniture Sold in the United States

Regulations
The most common furniture safety violations relate to the following CPSC regulations. Your products must comply with these regulations to be sold in the United States. For more information, visit www.cpsc.gov

Other U.S. Government Agencies and U.S. States

Consensus Industry Standards

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<tr>
<th>Standard Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>F404-10</td>
<td>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for High Chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>F1169-11</td>
<td>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Baby Cribs</td>
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<tr>
<td>F1420-97</td>
<td>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Bedding</td>
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<td>F1931-1a</td>
<td>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toddler Beds</td>
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<td>F1138-98 (2011)</td>
<td>Standard Performance Requirements for Child's Plastic Chairs for Outdoor Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>F1138-98 (2011)</td>
<td>Standard Performance Requirements for Plastic Chairs with Adjustable Backs or Reclining Mechanisms for Outdoor Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>F1938-99 (2011)</td>
<td>Standard Performance Requirements for Plastic Chairs with Adjustable Backs, for Outdoor Use</td>
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<td>F2057-14</td>
<td>Standard Safety Specification for Clothing Storage Units</td>
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<td>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Baby Changing Tables for Dresser Use</td>
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<td>F4061-1b</td>
<td>Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play Yards</td>
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<tr>
<td>WK22134</td>
<td>New Specification for Consumer Safety for Glass Furniture</td>
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For information on furniture regulations from U.S. States and other U.S. government agencies, see the “Guide to United States Furniture Compliance Requirements” by the National Institute of Standards and Technologies http://www.nist.gov/dqel/docs/furniture_guide.pdf
Buy Safe Furniture

• Educate yourself about furniture requirements and safety considerations in purchases.

• If you think there may be a concern, reach out early. Be proactive. Seek advice and use wide library of resources available, such as regulatory robot, business center, CPSC Attaché.
Thank You!

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