

New Crib Safety Standards

In December 2010, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission voted to approve new mandatory standards for full-size and non-full-size baby cribs as mandated by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. The CPSC has reported that since 2000 there have been at least 32 infant suffocation and strangulation deaths due to cribs with detaching drop-side rails. More deaths have occurred because of faulty or defective hardware.

According to the CPSC's website, "Once they become effective, the mandatory crib standards will:

- (1) stop the manufacture and sale of dangerous, traditional drop-side cribs;
- (2) make mattress supports stronger;
- (3) make crib hardware more durable; and
- (4) make safety testing more rigorous."

Effective June 2011, cribs manufactured, sold, or leased in the United States must comply with the new federal standards. Effective 24 months after the rule is published, child care facilities must have compliant cribs in their facilities. . "The new rules, which apply to full-size and non full-size cribs, prohibit the manufacture or sale of traditional drop-side rail cribs, strengthen crib slats and mattress supports, improve the quality of hardware and require more rigorous testing. The details of the rule are available on CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov/businfo/frnotices/fr11/cribfinal.pdf."

The new rules also apply to cribs currently in use at child care centers and places of public accommodation. By December 28, 2012, these facilities must use only compliant cribs that meet the new federal safety standards.

For some specific answers to frequently asked questions on crib standards, go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2011/06/the-new-crib-standard-questions-and-answers/>

For more information, contact Julie Heath or you can visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission's crib information center at: www.cpsc.gov/info/cribs/index.html