

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

16 CFR Chapter II

[Docket No. CPSC–2015–0020]

Petition Requesting Rulemaking on Supplemental Mattresses for Play Yards With Non-Rigid Sides

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Consumer Product Safety Commission (“CPSC” or “Commission”) has received a petition requesting a ban on supplemental mattresses for play yards with non-rigid sides, which are currently marketed to be used with non-full-size cribs, play yards, portable cribs, and play pens. The Commission invites written comments concerning the petition.

DATES: The Office of the Secretary must receive comments on the petition by October 13, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CPSC–2015–0020, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Submit electronic comments to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. The Commission does not accept comments submitted by electronic mail (email), except through www.regulations.gov. The Commission encourages you to submit electronic comments by using the Federal eRulemaking Portal, as described above.

Written Submissions: Submit written submissions in the following way: mail/hand delivery/courier to: Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 820, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone (301) 504–7923.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this notice. All comments received may be posted without change, including any personal identifiers, contact information, or other personal information provided, to: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Do not submit confidential business information, trade secret information, or other sensitive or protected information that you do not want to be available to the public. If furnished at all, such information should be submitted in writing.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to: <http://www.regulations.gov>, and insert the docket number, CPSC–2015–0020, into the “Search” box, and follow the prompts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rocky Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone (301) 504–6833, email: rhammond@cpsc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 16, 2015, Keeping Babies Safe (referred to as “KBS” or “petitioner”), submitted a petition to the Commission to initiate a rulemaking to ban supplemental mattresses for play yards with non-rigid sides, which are currently marketed to be used with non-full-size cribs, play yards, portable cribs, and play pens under the Commission’s authority under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (“CPSA”), 15 U.S.C. 2057. KBS states that these supplemental mattresses should be deemed banned hazardous products because they present an unreasonable risk of injury and death to infants, and that no feasible consumer product safety standard would adequately protect infants from the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the product.¹

In support, the petitioner asserts that KBS analyzed the death and injuries associated with supplemental

mattresses, based on CPSC incident data. According to KBS, between 2000 and 2013, 15 incidents involving supplemental mattresses occurred in domestic settings and six incidents occurred in a child care setting. The petitioner states that all of the incidents involved a child being wedged between gaps created when a supplemental mattress was added to a play yard or portable crib. The petitioner additionally states that the data indicate that most of the supplemental mattresses involved in deaths exceeded 1½ inches in thickness.

The petitioner also asserts that the current standard (ASTM F406–13, Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play Yards) does not adequately address the risk of injury posed by supplemental mattresses. KBS states that although ASTM F406–13 requires each product to be sold with a mattress provided by the manufacturer with a total thickness not to exceed 1½ inches, and contain warnings never to add a mattress, supplemental mattresses continue to be marketed to consumers for use in portable cribs and play yards. According to the petitioner, modifying the existing language in the current ASTM standard is not adequate to educate consumers about the unreasonable risk of injury that these mattresses pose to consumers. KBS states that, because supplemental mattresses continue to be sold to consumers, the most effective way to address the risk of injury caused by supplemental mattresses is to ban the product so that consumers do not have access to the product.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the petition by writing or calling the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; email: cpsc-os@cpsc.gov; telephone (301) 504–6833. The petition is also available at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. CPSC–2015–0020, Supporting and Related Materials.

Dated: August 6, 2015.

Todd A. Stevenson,
Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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¹ KBS excludes from its request replacement mattresses offered for sale by manufacturers of play yards who offer mattresses as a replacement part for those mattresses that were originally included with the play yard.