



Risk Management *Tips*

The Impact of New Crib Safety Standards

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recalled more than 11 million dangerous cribs since 2007. Detaching drop-side rails were associated with at least 32 infant suffocation and strangulation deaths since 2000. Additional deaths have occurred due to faulty or defective hardware.

A recent CPSC press release stated that new mandatory standards were unanimously approved for full-size and non-full-size baby cribs as required by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). The federal crib standards had not been updated in nearly 30 years, and these new rules are expected to usher in a safer generation of cribs. These new standards aim to prevent these tragedies and keep children safe in their cribs.

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. Starting December 28, 2012, child care facilities, family child care homes, infant Head Start centers, and places of public accommodation, such as hotels and motels, must have compliant cribs in their facilities.

You can learn more about the new standards, crib recalls, and other safety tips at www.cpsc.gov/info/cribs/index.html.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.