



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER NANCY NORD ON THE VOTE TO ADD TO THE
SUBSTANTIAL PRODUCT HAZARD LIST, CHILDREN'S UPPER OUTERWEAR IN
SIZES 2T TO 12 WITH NECK OR HOOD DRAWSTRINGS AND CHILDREN'S UPPER
OUTERWEAR IN SIZES 2T TO 16 WITH CERTAIN WAIST OR BOTTOM
DRAWSTRINGS

June 29, 2011

I am voting today in support of designating certain children's upper outerwear garments involving drawstrings as presenting substantial product hazards. This vote is important and has been a long time in coming.

It is important because the agency has received reports for years about entanglements and strangulations involving drawstrings. However, for the years for which reporting is considered complete, the data show a dramatic reduction in the annual average number of reported fatalities after the ASTM standard F 1816-97 was published in 1998. It should be noted, nonetheless, that we continued to receive incident reports.

This vote is a long time in coming because the agency should have moved sooner to make clear the agency's position. In 2006, the CPSC's Office of Compliance posted a letter on CPSC's website to the manufacturers, importers, and retailers of children's upper outerwear, citing the fatalities that had occurred and urging compliance with the industry standard. Yet from 2006 to 2010, we participated in 115 recalls of non-complying products with drawstrings. While traveling in Southeast Asia last year, I heard from manufacturers and testing labs the request for the agency to clarify through rulemaking exactly what the law is. In May 2010, we published a proposed rule that would deem these children's upper outerwear garments to be substantial product hazards. Since then I have continually urged my colleagues to finalize this rulemaking as quickly as possible so that manufacturers, importers and retailers were finally put on notice that we consider these products to be a substantial hazard.

Today's vote makes it clear: we have no tolerance for drawstrings endangering children on their upper outerwear.