



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

Record of Commission Action
Commissioners Voting by Ballot*

Commissioners Voting: Chairman Hal Stratton
Commissioner Thomas H. Moore
Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall

ITEM:

Petition CP 03-1 / HP 03-1 Requesting a Standard for Bunk Bed Corner Post Extensions and Finials

DECISION:

The Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to defer a decision on Petition CP 03-1 / HP 03-1, submitted by the Danny Foundation that is requesting that the Commission issue standards that would address the hazard of children hanging from bunk bed corner post extensions and denials. During the deferral the Commission staff will continue to gather information about hanging incidents with unknown circumstances and work with the bunk bed subcommittee of the ASTM to develop requirements to address corner post extensions and finials as well of other potential hanging hazards associated with bunk beds.

Commissioner Gall submitted the attached statement to accompany her vote.

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd A. Stevenson", written over a horizontal line.

Todd A. Stevenson
Secretary

* Ballot vote due July 30, 2004

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MARY SHEILA GALL ON
PETITION CP 03-1/HP 03-1, REQUESTING A STANDARD FOR BUNK BED
CORNER POST EXTENSIONS AND FINIALS**

July 30, 2004

Today I am voting to defer action on Petition CP 03-1/HP 03-1, the petition requesting that the Commission issue standards to address the hazard of children hanging from bunk bed corner post extensions and finials. The ASTM Committee on bunk beds is continuing its work on a performance standard addressing this hazard. Commission Staff will continue to participate in and monitor this process.

The record before us indicates that Staff is aware of 47 hanging incidents involving bunk beds—39 fatalities and 8 injuries—from January 1, 1990 through December 31, 2002. Of these 47 incidents, Staff has identified four as hanging deaths specifically noted as involving corner posts extensions or finials. It is unclear what sections of the bunk beds were involved in the remaining incidents, but Staff reports that it is probable that a portion of the remaining incidents also involved corner post extensions. Staff will obtain further information concerning the incidents for which the surrounding circumstances are unclear.

The Staff has indicated that a standard would likely help address the hazard associated with bunk bed corner post extensions and finials. For the interim time period, the ASTM Committee has formulated a strong warning for use on bunk beds which alerts consumers to the potential hazard. I am assured by the ASTM Committee that it will continue to work diligently, with assistance of Commission Staff, to finalize a performance standard to address the hanging hazard associated with bunk bed corner post extensions and finials.