



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
5 RESEARCH PLACE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

August 4, 2021

Ms. Joan Lawrence, ASTM F15.22 Subcommittee Chair
Mr. Al Kaufman, ASTM F15.22 Task Group Chair
ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Dear Ms. Lawrence and Mr. Kaufman:

CPSC staff¹ is aware of an increasing number of inflatable infant bather products coming onto the market that we believe are *aquatic toys* and meet the definition in ASTM F963-19 section 3.1.4. From October 20, 2015 to October 20, 2020, staff received 26 incident reports related to inflatable baby/infant flotation product injuries and fatalities. Attached to this letter is a spreadsheet of the incident data, which includes all inflatable baby/infant flotation product incidents involving children ages 0 to 4 years.

Of the 26 cases, 12 occurred in a bathtub, and 14 occurred in a pool. Of the 12 cases that occurred in a bathtub, all involved incidents in which the occupant's head became submerged underwater, with three resulting in death. Of the 14 cases that occurred in a pool, three resulted in death.

CPSC staff requests that the toy safety F15.22 subcommittee review the data and work to develop adequate safety performance requirements to try to address these incidents. If you have any questions, or need additional information, you can contact me at: bmordecai@cpsc.gov, or at: (301) 987-2506. ADD GENERAL VIEWS ARE STAFF AND NOT COMMISSION DISCLAIMER SENTENCE

Sincerely,

Benjamin Mordecai

Benjamin Mordecai
Mechanical Engineer
Project Manager, F963

Cc: Molly Lynyak, ASTM F15 Staff Manager
Hope Nesteruk, Children's Program Area Manager
Susan Bathalon, Children's Program Area Risk Manager
Jacqueline Campbell, CPSC Voluntary Standards Coordinator
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¹ The views or opinions expressed in this letter are solely those of the staff, and these views and opinions do not necessarily represent those of the commission

Enclosure

Inflatable Baby/Infant Float Incidents

10/20/2015 - 10/20/2020*

Age 0-4 years**

*Based on reports received in CPSRMS no later than 12/11/2020.

**Incidents where age of child is unknown are also included.

Deaths are shown in **bold** font.

Disclaimer: CPSC does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of these data particularly with respect to information submitted by people outside of CPSC. This spreadsheet was prepared by CPSC staff, has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
1	160512CBB2587	03/2016	3 MOM	IL	In early april 2016, a mother was visiting her sister's home and decided to give her 3 month old male son a bath. She placed her son in her sister's jet-stream type indoor bathtub with a ring-shaped flotation toy around his neck. This was the first time that the product was used. In under 5 minutes, her son's head slipped through the ring opening and he went underwater. She immediately removed him from the water and he sustained no injury. The mother found that the tab closure to the bottom air inlet had come open and the product was partially deflated.
2	160524CCC1697	05/2016	5 MOF	NY	A five month old female slipped out of the bottom of a baby float which was in use in a bathtub and submerged into the bath water on her back before being retrieved from the water by her mother who witnessed the incident. Visual examination of the float after the incident revealed a small tear on the top right side of the upper air chamber of the float which had not been noticed prior to the incident. The incident float was discarded immediately after the incident and the manufacturer provided a full refund and a replacement float.

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
3	160530HEP1801	05/2016	3 YOF	LA	Patient is a 3 year old female who was at a hotel's outdoor swimming pool with her mother. The mother had blown up a inflatable ring & the child had it on in the water. The 'ring' flipped over causing the child to be submerged for a few seconds. The child was taken to the er, treated, & Released.
4	160623CCC3707	06/2016	5 MOM	CO	A five-month-old male slipped underwater for approximately a few seconds while using a floatation device in a bathtub in his home. The child was using a product that went around his neck and was designed to keep him afloat. The bathtub was reportedly filled approximately one foot deep. There were no injuries. The child's mother believed the device was not fully inflated at the time of the incident.
5	170405HCC2568	06/2016	2 YOM	AR	A 2 year old male was left unsupervised for about 2 minutes in the back yard swimming pool. He was wearing a flotation ring around his waist at the time of the incident. The victim was found bent at the waist head down in the swimming pool. The victim was transported to the hospital and died due to drowning.
6	I1660411A	06/2016		OH	Purchased the '[REDACTED]' from [REDACTED] to be used by a young child. This float is an inflatable ring with a flexible vinyl bottom with two holes for feet and legs to hang below the inflatable ring. The float was inflated and placed into the pool, then the child was placed into the float. Within a few moments of operation the child stretched upright to a more vertical position and the float immediately tipped forward causing the child to tip forward and then flip upside-down and out of the float. Fortunately someone was close and quickly pulled the child out of the water. Closer examination of the float revealed that the 'leg holes' in the bottom of the boat are off-center (towards the front) and appear to create a situation where the slightest shift in weight by the child will cause an unbalance condition where only a very small portion of the inflatable ring is in the water.

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
7	X1680945A	06/2016	F	CA	A female toddler nearly drowned after slipping out of flotation device. The girl was found unresponsive. By the time firefighters arrived, the girl was in stable condition. She was taken to a hospital with minor injuries.
8	X1681051A 160829CCC3848	06/2016	3 YOF	OK	A 3 yof drowned in an above ground pool while occupying a circular tube flotation device consisting of a seat or harness in the middle of the tube. The victim was discovered upside down in the device with her head submerged. The victim was removed from the pool and transported by ems to a local hospital where she was Pronounced.

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9	H1670111A	07/2016	2 YOF	OH	<p>Caller stated that his 2 year old grandchild sitting on the floater when it became unbalanced and then tipped over in the pool. The child was sitting in the floater when the incident occurred, he had to pull her from the water, she had water coming from her nose and mouth, no medical attention was received.</p> <p>He stated that the floater is not steady and because of this, the floater presents a drowning hazard. He stated that label warning does not state that if the child leans to the right or left it can tip over. He is concerned that this is unsafe and should be taken off the market.</p> <p>The manufacturer or retailer was not contacted.</p>
10	X1690850A	08/2016	18 MOF	OH	<p>An 18 MOF was pulled from a swimming pool after a near drowning. She was wearing a flotation device in the pool when the device reportedly tipped over. A 17 YO babysitter called 911 and neighbor performed CPR on the toddler, resuscitating her. The toddler was airlifted to a hospital as a precaution.</p>
11	161013HCC3033	08/2016	3 YOM	TX	<p>A 3 year old male, wearing an inflatable device, was found at the bottom of a motel swimming pool. Victim died due to drowning.</p>

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
12	170313HEP1761	02/2017	6 MOF	TX	6 month old female ingested bath water while having a bath. She was wearing [redacted] to help keep her head above the water, she tilted her body and ingested water when mother removed her hands to assist her 2 year old brother. He was previously in the bathtub but was not at the time of this incident. Mother removed the child and patted her back to help her cough up water. Mother brought her to the hospital. Mother left the hospital before being released. She had been there 5 hours waiting. Since she had her two year old with her and it was getting late into the evening, she left the hospital.
13	11740453A 170823CBB3218	04/2017	6 MOM	CA	My baby was in a floatation product called [REDACTED] when he fell into the bathtub and was completely submerged in the water. [REDACTED] is extremely unsafe and MUST BE RECALLED!!!
14	180403CCC1582	07/2017	4 MOM	PA	A four month-old became submerged under approximately two feet of water while in a bathtub with his mother when he slipped through a flotation device that was around his neck and had become partially deflated. The victim was submerged for approximately one second before his mother was able to lift the victim back above the water. The victim was crying in response to the incident, but was not injured in a physical manner and has fully recovered (i.e., no fear of water developed, etc.).

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
15	180403CCC3674	08/2017	M	NV	While using an inflatable infant neck float in a pool, a consumer's son slipped through the product when it deflated. The consumer did not notice any holes in the float, but has since gotten a new float and continues to use the product. The incident product was returned to the manufacturer where a leak was discovered at the chin rest. No injuries were reported.
16	X17A0598A	08/2017	3 YOF	TX	3 yof is recovering in hospital after she almost drowned in a pool. She slipped out of an inflatable and sank to the bottom of the pool, but a man who was there was able to perform cpr and save the girl's life.
17	180403CCC1583	08/2017	6 MOF	MD	A six month old female slipped out of a flotation device while she was being bathed in a bathtub by her mother. The victim's mother witnessed the incident and quickly removed the child from the water before she was injured. The child's mother intentionally underinflated the floatation device because she felt it was too tight around the victim's neck.
18	180403CCC2604	01/2018	3 MOM	TN	A 15 week old boy was uninjured when he was placed in a bathtub utilizing a neck inflatable device. While the mother was trying to remove the child from the tub, the child's head slipped out from the device, and his head went underwater. The mother removed the child from the tub and subsequently found the inner tube of the Device was leaking air.

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
19	180403CCC1584	01/2018	2 MOF	CA	A consumer complained her two month old granddaughter, the victim, was using a neck flotation device in the bathtub when her head slipped through and the victim submerged into the water. No injuries were Reported.
20	H1860031A	06/2018	14 MOM	KS	<p>The consumer indicates that her son fell through the leg holes of the inflatable toy, because they tore into one large hole, while he was in the pool. The consumer was watching and was able to remove him from the pool immediately. The consumer states that the inflatable toy is marketed for years one to three, and her son fourteen months.</p> <p>06/[REDACTED]/2018 - The consumer contacted the Manufacturer via e-mail explaining the situation however she has yet to receive a response.</p> <p>The consumer states that the product was used approximately ten times before the incident for about one hour each time.</p> <p>The consumer plans on keeping the inflatable toy for at least the next thirty days in case an investigation ensues.</p>
21	180612HEP7063	06/2018	7 MOM	GA	7 month old male was with his mom in the apartment swimming pool. He had on an inner tube with a harness but was still able to get his face close enough to drink the water in the pool. He drank too much water and began to cough. About an hour later he started throwing up. His mom brought him to the hospital to make sure he was okay. Examined & released without treatment. Full recovery.

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
22	180812HEP5281	07/2018	7 MOM	AL	A 7 month old male was in a baby float with his mom who had her hand on the float. They were in the above ground pool in the backyard of their home. His float "malfunctioned" and tipped over. Mom immediately picked him up as soon as it tipped over. He was fine, but since he swallowed a little bit of water, the mother was worried about the silent drowning she had heard about. She took him to the emergency room a few hours later and left without being seen.
23	X1991511A 191009HCC1032	04/2019	5 MOF	VA	A five month-old infant was found floating face-down in a bathtub after she had been left unattended for approximately three minutes by her mother. She had been placed inside an infant flotation device inside the bathtub as the mother left to get her other child a drink of water. The infant later died at the hospital the same day. The official cause of death is listed as "drowning."

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
24	I1970030A 190711CCC2487	07/2019	4 MOM	IL	<p>A 4 month old male infant was found unresponsive in about 8in of water in a bathtub. He had an inflatable neck ring flotation device secured around his neck. His teenage sister stated that before use the neck ring was partially deflated, so she used the air inlet to inflate it. Then secured the product's velcro strap and buckle, which was checked by the mother. Infant was left unattended for about 5min while the mother made a bottle. When she returned, he was found floating in the water without the neck ring, which was floating alone with its strap & buckle still secured. He was pronounced deceased at the hospital. Police retained the neck ring as evidence for their suspicious death investigation.</p>
25	H1980047A	08/2019	2 YOF	CA	<p>The consumerOut of the pool, the child fell in backwards, face up, and the floatation device held her face under water and prevented her from rolling-over or lifting her face out of the water to breathe.</p> <p>It appears the product has been improved but not recalled, and the improved version appears to have the same potential for drowning.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Probably has the same problem</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

#	Document Number(s)	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
26	I2090066A 200915HFE0001	04/2020	6 MOF	ME	A 6-month-old female was left unattended in a bathtub while wearing a neck ring floatation device. The device slipped off the victim's neck and she drowned before her mother returned to the room.