United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission
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TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

Scott Lewis, Delta
Subcommittee Chair, F15.18, Bassinets and Cradles
ASTM
100 Barr Harbor Dr.
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959

Dear Mr. Lewis,

    CPSC staff[1] has become aware of incidents involving bassinets with a cantilever design, in which infants reportedly rolled into the side of the product, or into a prone position. These incidents occurred from 2016 to the present. Four incidents, which are identified in the attached spreadsheet, involved deaths that occurred in the period from 2019 to present.

    Cantilever-designed bassinets are supported on one side only. Figures 1 through 4 contain examples of these types of bassinets.

Figures 1-4. Bassinet examples

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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.

The incidents suggest that the sleep surface may tilt and cause an infant, during normal sleep movements, to roll from a supine to a side-lying position into the side of the product, or into a prone position, earlier than developmentally expected. Although ASTM F2933 – 16$^{\varepsilon 1}$ allows a resting side-to-side angle of 7˚, staff's analysis suggests that this allowance may increase the risk of unexpected rollover within a cantilever-designed bassinet.

Bassinets with cantilever designs may allow flexibility in the sleep area. Staff observed that the products can move and bounce in a manner that is unlike traditional bassinets with four legs. Staff is concerned that a child who is moving his/her arms and legs in the product may create enough movement to cause the sleep area to further tilt side-to-side and/or head-to-toe. This may increase the likelihood that a child can roll unexpectedly from a supine to a side lying or prone position.

Currently, ASTM F2194 – 16$^{\varepsilon 1}$, *Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bassinets and Cradles,* does not contain any references to, nor performance requirements for, bassinets that have a sleep surface that tilts and is flexible, such as a cantilever design. CPSC staff requests that the ASTM F15.18 *Subcommittee on Bassinets* form a task group to review these incidents and consider developing performance requirements to reduce the likelihood that infants will roll over unexpectedly.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Celestine Kish at: ckish@cpsc.gov, (301) 987-2547, or Sharon White at: swhite@cpsc.gov, (301)-987-2562.

Sincerely,

Celestine Kish, MA
Project Manager, Bassinets and Cradles

Sharon R. White
Human Factors representative

cc: Molly Lynyak, Manager, Technical Committee Operations
       Jacqueline Campbell, CPSC Voluntary Standards Coordinator
       Hope Nesteruk, Children's Program Area Manager

Bassinet Incidents

Based on reports received in CPSRMS no later than 10/22/2021.

All deaths are in bond 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 Numbers	Date	Age/Sex	State	Narrative
1	X2020141A 200528CCC3542	03/2019	1 MOF	TX	ON MARCH [REDACTED], 2019, A ONE MONTH OLD FEMALE WEARING AN INFANT BODYSUIT WAS FOUND UNRESPONSIVE IN A BASSINET AFTER HAVING BEEN BOTTLE-FED FORMULA AND LAID DOWN ON A PAD ON HER BACK WITH A BLANKET TO SLEEP. THE VICTIM WAS TRANSPORTED TO A HOSPITAL WHERE SHE WAS DECLARED DECEASED. THE VICTIM'S OFFICIAL CAUSE OF DEATH WAS LISTED AS SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME.
2	X2020145A 200211HCC3248	06/2019	2 MOM	TX	A TWO-MONTH-OLD MALE WAS FOUND UNRESPONSIVE ON HIS LEFT SIDE, FACE DOWN NEAR THE EDGE OF A BASSINET, WITH HIS NOSE POSITIONED ADJACENT TO A CREASE OF THE BASSINET HE WAS LAYING IN. THE MOTHER HAD PLACED HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BASSINET ON THE LEFT SIDE. THE BASSINET HAD BEEN POSITIONED BETWEEN THE HEAD OF THE BED AND WALL. PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW A PROTRUSION ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BASSINET CAUSED BY THE HEAD OF THE BED BEING PRESSED TIGHTLY AGAINST THE MESH SIDE OF THE BASSINET. CPR WAS INITIATED BY THE VICTIM'S FATHER UNTIL EMERGENCY CREWS ARRIVED. DESPITE RESUSCITATIVE MEASURES, THE VICTIM WAS PRONOUNCED DECEASED AT THE SCENE A SHORT TIME LATER. THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DETERMINED TO BE SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME AND THE MANNER OF DEATH AS "NATURAL."
3	I2020165A 200224CCC3301	08/2019	4 MOM	OR	A FOUR MONTH OLD INFANT BOY DIED AS A RESULT OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH (SUID) AFTER BEING FOUND UNRESPONSIVE IN A BASSINET. THE BOY'S MOTHER SWADDLED HIM IN A BLANKET AND PLACED HIM ON HIS BACK TO SLEEP IN THE BASSINET. WHEN THE BOY'S MOTHER WENT TO CHECK ON HIM AFTER SHE HAD BEEN SLEEPING A FEW HOURS SHE FOUND THE BOY FACE DOWN IN THE BASSINET AND NOT BREATHING.
4	1908027926 210111HCC3347	09/2019	1 MOF	CO	A 24-DAY-OLD FEMALE WAS FOUND UNRESPONSIVE WITH HER FACE PARTIALLY PRESSED AGAINST THE SIDE OF HER BASSINET AND BLANKET. THE VICTIM HAD BEEN SWADDLED AND PLACED SUPINE WITH A BLANKET OVER HER THE PREVIOUS EVENING. HER 29-YEAR-OLD MOTHER HAD MODIFIED THE BOTTOM OF THE BASSINET WITH A BABY MAT, AS THERE WAS NO PAD IN THE BASSINET. THE VICTIM WAS PRONOUNCED DECEASED AT THE HOSPITAL. THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS PROBABLE POSITIONAL ASPHYXIA.