

April 23rd, 2026

TRANSMITTED BY EMAIL

Tony Paolo, ASTM F15.68
ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Dear Mr. Paolo,

Despite more than a decade of safety messaging and product recalls,^{1,2,3,4,5,6} baby monitor cord strangulations continue.

Although ASTM F2951-19 (2024) *Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Baby Monitors*, published in September 2019 and renewed in 2024, included safety improvements such as a new cord accessibility test (Section 6.4), CPSC staff remains concerned about the persistent strangulation hazard posed by baby monitor cords. Current requirements mandate protective coverings⁷ *only* for baby monitors that are *intended* for attachment to a crib or positioned within 36 inches of a crib, leaving other scenarios unaddressed. The latest incident datasheet reviewed by CPSC captures incidents that occurred between January 1, 2018, and July 30, 2025, with 83 reported incidents involving baby monitors, including ten fatalities related to strangulation, and five additional cases involving confirmed or suspected strangulation scenarios⁸. Of these ten fatalities, seven occurred after F2951-19 was published. An incident data spreadsheet covering this time period is attached at the bottom of this document. These incident data numbers are similar to those observed in older datasheets that captured incidents received by CPSC between 2010 and 2019, suggesting that requirements included in the 2019 revision have not addressed strangulation hazards for these products adequately.

¹ <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/5066.pdf>

² <https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Video/Baby-Monitor-Cords-Have-Strangled-Children>

³ <https://www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/Video/CPSC-Chairman-Baby-Monitor-Cords-Are-Serious-Safety-Issue>

⁴ [https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/angelcare-recalls-to-repair-movement-and-sound-baby-monitors-after-two-](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/angelcare-recalls-to-repair-movement-and-sound-baby-monitors-after-two-deaths#:~:text=Angelcare%20and%20CPSC%20have%20received,the%20crib%20by%20the%20infant)

[deaths#:~:text=Angelcare%20and%20CPSC%20have%20received,the%20crib%20by%20the%20infant](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2013/angelcare-recalls-to-repair-movement-and-sound-baby-monitors-after-two-deaths#:~:text=Angelcare%20and%20CPSC%20have%20received,the%20crib%20by%20the%20infant)

⁵ <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2011/two-strangulation-deaths-prompt-summer-infant-to-recall-video-baby-monitors-with-cords>

⁶ The statement and report have not been reviewed or approved by, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Commission

⁷ Protective coverings are rigid and prevent cords from being able to be wrapped around an infants neck. ASTM F963-17 (2023) section 3.1.75 defines rigid as “any material having a hardness greater than 70 Shore A scale durometer, as measured by the latest revision of Test Method D2240.”

⁸ From CPSRMS: Document numbers I1930192A, I2180551A. From NEISS: nek numbers 191245373, 200726011, 210702780

Based on the incident data analysis, including in-depth investigations conducted by CPSC investigators, CPSC staff assesses that these fatalities involved baby monitors installed on ceilings or high wall locations above cribs or play yards. In these cases, the monitor either fell into the crib, making its cord accessible to a toddler/infant, or a section of the cord that had been secured to the wall became loose, leaving the cord within the child's reach—even though the monitor itself remained mounted above the crib or play yard.

Two of the in-depth investigations were able to capture warning labels on the involved baby monitor cords.⁹ One of the products did not appear to include the pictogram as stated in section 7.2.2.2 per F2951-19, while the other product did include the pictogram and did have the warning text as specified in 7.2.2.1. Both fatalities occurred after F2951-19 was published and involved products that were likely manufactured after the standard was published.

In 2025, CPSC staff purchased nine corded baby monitors to assess popular models currently available on the market. These monitors share design similarities with products previously involved in fatal strangulation incidents. Notably, none of the nine monitors included any form of protective covering over the cords. While warnings were present in user manuals, on cord labels, and on packaging, several of the monitors featured marketing images and video reviews that could mislead consumers into believing the product is safe for use within three feet of a crib further reinforce this unsafe usage.

Given the continued occurrence of fatalities and persistent consumer behavior placing monitors within hazardous proximity to sleeping infants, CPSC staff urges the ASTM F15.68 subcommittee to expand protective covering requirements in the F2951 standard to all corded baby monitors. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at mbarzola@cpsc.gov.

CPSC staff looks forward to collaborating with the subcommittee to address these concerns and strengthen protections for infants and toddlers.

Sincerely,

Matthew Barzola
Engineering Psychologist
Division of Human Factors, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

⁹ Each investigation examined a separate product.

CC: Molly Lynyak, ASTM F15 Staff Manager

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Jacqueline Campbell, CPSC Voluntary Standards Coordinator

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