

April 25, 2023

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

Julia Costello, Chair of Subcommittee F15.18 for Infant Rockers
ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Dr.
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959

Dear Ms. Costello,

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff is currently developing a briefing package for Commission consideration to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) for infant rockers under section 104 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). As part of this effort, CPSC staff is evaluating the adequacy of the current voluntary standard for infant rockers, ASTM F3084-22, *Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant and Infant/Toddler Rockers*.¹

In its review, staff identified the following areas of concern with ASTM F3084-22:

- Staff has identified multiple incidents of rockers tipping over with infants seated in the product. The forward stability test in section 7.4.1 of ASTM F3084-22 aligns with the forward stability test for infant bouncers in the initial 2014 edition of ASTM F2167, *Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Bouncer Seats*. However, the version of the test used for bouncers was later revised in ASTM F2167-14a to be more stringent, by specifying that the static test load should be the maximum manufacturer's recommended weight if it is greater than the 21 lbf test load, and the force shall be applied one inch further from the front crotch post as an additional factor of safety. Therefore, the current forward stability test for infant rockers is less stringent than the current stability test for infant bouncers in ASTM F2167-22, which is incorporated by reference as a mandatory standard in 16 CFR part 1229 – Safety Standard for Infant Bouncers (part 1229). CPSC staff recommends adopting for infant rockers the more stringent forward stability test used in ASTM F2167-22.
- ASTM F3084-22 does not specify electrical requirements to address battery leakage hazards, which have been identified in infant rocker incident data. However, sections 6.8 and 7.1 of ASTM F2167-22, which are incorporated by reference into part 1229, contain requirements to address battery leakage. Given that infant rockers and infant bouncers often have similar features that rely on the use of batteries, such as music and vibrations, CPSC staff recommends that these battery requirements be added to ASTM F3084.
- ASTM F3084-22 does not specify a drop test as part of performance requirements to address hazards. However, sections 6.6 and 7.7 of ASTM F2167-22, incorporated by reference into part 1229, contain drop test requirements to evaluate product durability. CPSC staff recommends that these requirements be added to ASTM F3084.
- ASTM F3084-22 does not specify a tethered strap inaccessibility requirement that

¹ The views or opinions expressed in this letter are solely those of the staff, and have not been reviewed or approved by, and do not necessarily represent the views of, the Commission.

addresses a strangulation hazard associated with straps that are exposed below the product, in which children (who are not within the product) can become entangled. The ASTM F15.21 Subcommittee for Infant and Cradle Swings, in conjunction with CPSC staff, is currently developing performance and test requirements to address the hazard. CPSC staff recommends that ASTM F3084 adopt these performance requirements once finalized.

- Staff has identified multiple fatalities involving infants sleeping/napping in rockers, some of which involve soft bedding used in rockers. CPSC staff recommends that the current warning language be revised to more strongly emphasize that rockers are not intended for sleep or napping, and that language be added to warn against the use of soft bedding in rockers. Staff recommends the wording, “**USING THIS PRODUCT FOR SLEEP, NAPS, OR ON SOFT SURFACES CAN KILL. NEVER use this product for sleep. NEVER add soft bedding or padding. Babies have suffered head injuries FALLING FROM ROCKERS.**” An example warning incorporating this recommended language is included below:

 WARNING
USING THIS PRODUCT FOR SLEEP, NAPS, OR ON SOFT SURFACES CAN KILL • NEVER use this product for sleep. • Stay near and watch baby during use. If baby falls asleep, remove baby as soon as possible and place baby on a firm, flat sleep surface such as a bare crib or bassinet. • ALWAYS use restraints. Adjust to fit snugly. • NEVER use on a bed, sofa, cushion or other soft surface. Babies have suffocated when seats tipped over on soft surfaces. • NEVER add soft bedding or padding. Babies have suffered head injuries FALLING FROM ROCKERS. • NEVER lift or carry baby in rocker. • STOP using product when baby has reached [insert manufacturer’s recommended maximum weight, not to exceed 20 lbs.] • ALWAYS place rocker on floor. NEVER use on any elevated surface.

- Other than a requirement for warning labels to be “conspicuous,” ASTM F3084-22 does not contain specific requirements for the location or visibility of warning labels. However, sections 7.11 and 8.4.7 of ASTM F2167-22, incorporated by reference into part 1229, contain specific visibility requirements for the fall hazard warnings. CPSC staff recommends that these requirements be added to ASTM F3084. Additionally, given the prevalence of fatalities involving infant sleep or napping, staff recommends that all warning language, rather than just the warning language addressing fall hazards, be subject to these requirements.
- CPSC staff noted a few typographical errors in the warning language of the standard. Staff recommends correcting these errors.

Staff appreciates the work of the ASTM F15.18 subcommittee to address hazards associated with infant and infant/toddler rockers. Staff expects to deliver a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Briefing Package to the Commission this fiscal year. If you have any questions, or need additional information, you may contact me at: zfoster@cpsc.gov or (301) 987-2034. As always, staff is happy to discuss these recommendations at the next subcommittee meeting.

Sincerely,

Zach Foster

Zachary Foster
Infant and Infant/Toddler Rockers Project Manager
Division of Human Factors, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

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