



United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission

Record of Commission Action

Representing the Commission: Acting Chairman Peter A. Feldman

ITEM:

Petition Requesting a Mandatory Regulation for Child-Resistant Above-Ground and Portable Pool Ladders (Petition CP 25-2)

DECISION:

Pursuant to Interim Directive ID003, *Interim Delegations in Furtherance of the Commission's Regulatory Authorities* (Aug. 22, 2025), Acting Chairman Feldman, on behalf of the Commission, granted Petition CP 25-2, and directed staff as set forth in the attached guidance (see attachment for complete text).

For the Commission:

Alberta Mills
Secretary

Approved on June 3, 2026

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COMMISSION DETERMINATION GRANTING PETITION CP 25-2 AND DIRECTING FURTHER STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 3, 2026

Today, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) determines that Petition CP 25-2 has merit and raises significant safety concerns regarding child access to above-ground and portable pools through ladders that are not adequately child resistant. The incident data identified by staff, including 128 reported fatal drowning incidents involving children under five years of age between 2020 and 2025 in which pool ladders were reported or believed to have been used to gain access to above-ground or portable pools, demonstrates that the products that are the subject of the petition may present an unreasonable risk of injury and that Commission action may be reasonably necessary to reduce that risk.

Consistent with staff's analysis, the Commission concludes that further action is warranted. Accordingly, the Commission grants the petition and directs staff to continue engagement with the relevant voluntary standards bodies, including ASTM F15.60 and ANSI/PHTA/ICC-4, to develop:

1. Performance requirements for child-resistant ladders intended for use with above-ground and portable pools;
2. A measurable and objective definition of child resistance; and
3. Enhanced warning and instructional requirements intended to improve consumer engagement with child-resistant features.

The Commission further directs staff to convene a task force, as proposed in PHTA's public comments, including representation from CPSC staff, standards developers, medical and drowning-prevention experts, industry representatives, and consumer safety organizations, to evaluate the hazard data, identify unresolved technical and policy issues, and develop consensus recommendations to support relevant standards development.

Staff shall provide the Commission, within 12 months, with a status update regarding:

- progress in ASTM and ANSI/PHTA standards development activities;
- progress of the joint technical task force;
- any unresolved technical or policy issues; and
- whether the voluntary standards process appears likely to adequately address the hazard within a reasonable time.

If, after 12 months, the Commission determines that insufficient progress has been made toward the development and implementation of adequate voluntary standards addressing the hazards identified in the petition, staff is directed to initiate preparation of a notice of proposed rulemaking for Commission consideration addressing child-resistant ladder requirements for above-ground and portable pools.

Consistent with applicable law, Executive Orders, and Administration policy, the Commission's consideration of this petition and any future regulatory action shall be based on objective safety data, injury prevention, technical feasibility, and the protection of children from unreasonable risks of injury, and shall not consider diversity, equity, and inclusion factors unrelated to consumer product safety risk.

Nothing in this direction limits the Commission's authority to initiate rulemaking or pursue other appropriate regulatory action at an earlier time should the Commission determine that circumstances warrant such action.