



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

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approved and signed.

DATE: November 4, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Commission
Todd A. Stevenson, Secretary

THROUGH: Stephanie Tsacoumis, General Counsel
Patricia Adkins, Executive Director

FROM : George A. Borlase, Assistant Executive Director
Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction

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Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction

SUBJECT: Six-Month Update to Petition CP-13-1 Request for a Ban or Standard for Adult Portable Bed Rails

Petition CP 13-1 requests that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission or CPSC) ban or issue a standard for adult portable bed rails (APBR). On April 29, 2014, the Commission voted unanimously (3-0) to defer the petition and directed the staff to provide an update to the Commission in 6 months on the progress of the voluntary standards process.

At CPSC's request, ASTM has established a subcommittee of the F15 Committee, on Consumer Products, charged with developing an APBR standard. Subcommittee members include consumers, participants from industry, test labs, and other consumer product experts. The subcommittee has held approximately 4-6 meetings, generally consisting of regular conference calls approximately once a month, with supplemental information exchanged by email.

The subcommittee also created three task groups to address the scope, performance requirements, and marking and labeling requirements. Thus far, the task groups have developed a preliminary draft of the scope of a voluntary standard and a preliminary framework for performance requirements. As set forth below, CPSC staff also is hosting a task group meeting in December 2014 to make progress on performance requirements.

Several obstacles have slowed progress. Not all participants are familiar with the ASTM process or in general voluntary standards development. Additionally, filling the posts of subcommittee chairperson and task group leaders required more time than anticipated by ASTM. Task group leaders have been identified; however, due to their lack of familiarity with ASTM and the technical issues, progress continues to be slower than anticipated. A subcommittee chairperson has yet to be named.

Since the beginning of the voluntary standard process, CPSC staff has actively participated in the subcommittee meetings and all three task groups to support the development of a standard that will address all of the potential hazards associated with APBRs. To accelerate the standard development process, CPSC staff will host a meeting of the ASTM subcommittee technical experts familiar with voluntary standard development, ASTM procedures, and bed rail design. This meeting will be held December 16–17 at the National Product Testing and Evaluation Center (NPTEC) in Rockville, MD. The purpose is to complete the draft of the technical testing requirements for the performance requirements. The draft then will be provided to the ASTM subcommittee. Staff believes that assembling a small group of technical experts is a more efficient method of completing the performance requirements to address sufficiently the hazard patterns identified in CPSC incident data.

Based on the progress made in December, CPSC staff will consider whether to schedule additional technical meetings, in addition to the regular monthly conference calls with ASTM. CPSC staff will maintain this level of in-depth involvement, as needed, to support the development and completion of the other areas of the standard, including the scope, labeling, and warnings, in addition to the performance requirements.