



Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Slip-Resistant Bathing Facilities¹

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INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification addresses the bathtub and shower accidents that are due in whole or in part to the slipperiness of the bathing surface.

In response to the accident analysis and assignment of causes developed and identified for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission by the Abt Associates, Inc., final report, “A Systematic Program to Reduce the Incidence and Severity of Bathtub and Shower Area Injuries,” June 4, 1975,² this consumer safety specification provides a means to reduce accidents in bath and shower units caused directly or indirectly by the slipperiness of the bathing surface.³

It is not possible to cover, in this consumer safety specification, bath and shower units that are used in a manner for which they were never intended. Furthermore, children do not always act prudently, and the motions of the elderly and infirm are not always under complete control. These problems will be covered in a consumer-education-type publication, designed to describe the hazards of the bathing area, and suggestions concerning bather’s conduct to reduce these hazards.

This consumer safety specification is written within the current state of the art of bath and shower technology.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification covers the slip resistance of bathtubs and shower structures or combinations, used for bathing or showering, or both, herein referred to as bathing facilities.

1.2 This specification establishes definitions, methods of testing the slip resistance of bathing facilities, and the in-use performance requirements needed to minimize the accidents caused by slipperiness during any reasonable use.

1.3 This consumer safety specification is intended to describe a means to reduce accidents to persons, especially children and the aged, resulting from the use of bathing facilities.

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 8, of this specification. *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns,*

if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:⁴

D459 [Terminology Relating to Soaps and Other Detergents](#)
D799 [Specification for Liquid Toilet Soap](#) (Withdrawn 2000)⁵

2.2 *Federal Specification*:⁶

[PS-624g Soap, Toilet, Liquid and Paste](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *applique*—a material affixed to the bathing surface or sump of a bathtub or shower for the purpose of increasing its slip resistance.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.03 on Safety Standards for Bathtub and Shower Structures.

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² Available from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 4330 East West Hwy., Bethesda, MD 20814, <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

³ “Performance Characteristics of Sanitary Plumbing Fixtures,” available from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.²

⁴ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

⁵ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁶ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://www.dodssp.daps.mil>.