



Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bunk Beds¹

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INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification addresses bunk bed accidents that were identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

The CPSC estimates that in 1989, about 34 000 bunk bed-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms, and about three fourths of those injured were under the age of 15. Most of these injuries were minor and were associated with victims who fell from, bumped into, or jumped from bunk beds. However, there are other less-obvious potentially serious hazards associated with bunk beds. For example, from 1973 through November 1990, CPSC also received reports of 83 deaths of children less than 15 years of age involving bunk beds. Seventy-four incidents, including 17 deaths, involved children who reportedly became entrapped between the mattress and guardrail; 24 incidents, including five deaths, involved children who reportedly became entrapped either between the mattress and bed structure or in the bed end structure; and 18 incidents, including 16 deaths, involved young children who reportedly became entrapped between the bed and the wall. The CPSC also received reports of four deaths due to failure of the mattress support, 19 deaths due to falls from bunk beds, twelve deaths due to strangulation when a belt, rope, or clothing became caught on the bed structure, and ten deaths due to other or unknown causes.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification establishes minimum requirements for the design and performance of bunk beds. It also contains requirements for labeling and instructional material.

1.2 This consumer safety specification is intended to minimize accidents to children resulting from normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse or abuse of bunk beds. This consumer safety specification is written within the current state of the art of bunk bed technology and does not address bunk beds that are blatantly misused or are used in a careless manner that disregards warning statements and safety instructions provided with each bunk bed.

1.3 For the purpose of this consumer safety specification, a bunk bed (hereinafter referred to as a bed) is defined as any structure that includes at least one sleeping surface in which the underside of any of its foundations is over 30 in. (762 mm) from the floor.

1.4 This consumer safety specification does not address bunk beds for institutional use (for example, in prisons, military facilities, dormitories, and so forth).

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units, as well as any specified ISO/ANSI standard hardware, are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.6 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 5, 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*:²
[D3359 Test Methods for Measuring Adhesion by Tape Test](#)

¹ This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.30 on Bunk Beds.

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² 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.