



## Standard Safety Specification for Window Fall Prevention Devices for Non-Emergency Escape (Egress) and Rescue (Ingress) Windows<sup>1,2</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2006; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### INTRODUCTION

The consumer safety specification addresses window fall prevention devices that protect against potential falls by children age five and under through open windows not designated for emergency escape or rescue in installations more than 75 ft (23 m) above ground level in multiple family dwelling buildings since windows at these heights are beyond the reach of rescue ladders currently in use. Window fall prevention devices currently available include window opening control devices, window fall prevention screens, and some types of window guards. These devices use different strategies to prevent children from falling through open windows. Window opening control devices restrict the size of the open area of the window so that it is too small for a young child to fall through. They do this by allowing the window opening to be set at a predetermined position. Window fall prevention screens and fall prevention window guards provide a barrier to prevent a child from falling through an open window. This specification does not apply to devices applied to windows installed in one and two family dwellings.

A special study<sup>3</sup> by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates that young children are at high risk of death and serious injury from window falls. Children age five and younger account for a higher percentage of window fall fatalities and injuries.<sup>4</sup>

Window fall prevention devices usually differ in purpose and application from security/burglar bars. The general purpose of a window fall prevention device is to prevent a child age five or younger from falling through an open window. The general purpose of a security bar is to prevent unlawful entry through a window. Generally window fall prevention devices and security bars are two separate devices. However, a security bar could be used as a fall prevention device if it meets the requirements of this specification.

The CPSC has advised caregivers to open windows less than 4 in. when children are present as one means to prevent child falls through open windows. Window opening control devices provide a means that the window, when opened in an initial operation, will satisfy the CPSC recommendation to open less than 4 in.<sup>5</sup> The 4-in. dimension is drawn from related building codes and standards for openings in guardrail assemblies,<sup>6</sup> and is universally accepted as the appropriate dimension to prevent a child from passing through balcony or guard railing systems. An additional operation is required to open the window further. The additional operation must be performed without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge. Security from forced entry is not within the scope of this standard and is not the intended function of any of the devices referred to herein.

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<sup>1</sup> This safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.38 on Window Fall Prevention.

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<sup>2</sup> This standard replaces former Provisional Safety Specification PS 112.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, special window falls study conducted in 1991.

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, special window falls study conducted in 1991 and “Window Safety: Data and Patterns Related to Entrapments and Accidental Falls from Windows,” prepared by Anderson Corporation.

Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:F15-1002.

<sup>5</sup> Consumer Product Safety Commission, “Preventing Window Falls,” Document #5124.