



Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Soft Infant Carriers¹

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INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification is intended to address incidents reported by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) relating to soft infant carriers.

In response to the incident data compiled by the CPSC, this consumer safety specification attempts to minimize the hazards associated with these products from the following: (1) occupant retention, (2) structural integrity, (3) deficiency of consumer education regarding product use. This consumer safety specification is intended to deal with reasonably foreseeable use and misuse of the products. This consumer safety specification does not apply to products that are blatantly misused, nor does it apply to products used by consumers in a careless manner that violate normal practice or disregard the instructions or warnings provided with the product, or both.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification establishes performance requirements, test methods and marking requirements to promote safe use of soft infant carriers.

1.2 This consumer safety specification is intended to minimize the risk of incidents to an infant from the normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse of these products.

1.3 For purposes of definition, a soft infant carrier is a product, normally of sewn fabric construction, which is designed to contain a full term infant, generally in an upright position, in close proximity to the caregiver. In general, the child will weigh between 7 and 25 lb (3.2 and 11.3 kg). The soft infant carrier is normally “worn” by the caregiver with the carrier, and thus the infant, suspended from one or both shoulders of the caregiver. These products are generally worn on the front of the caregiver’s body with the infant either facing towards or away from the caregiver. This consumer safety specification does not include products generally referred to as “slings.”

1.4 No soft infant carrier produced after the approval date of this consumer safety specification shall, either by label or other means, indicate compliance with the specification unless it complies with all of the requirements contained herein.

1.5 This consumer safety specification is not intended to address incidents and injuries resulting from the interaction of other persons or objects with the caregiver and infant while the soft carrier is in use.

1.6 The test values stated in inch-pound units in this consumer safety specification are to be regarded as the standard. The metric values in parentheses are for reference only.

1.7 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 7 of this consumer safety 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 requirements prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 3359 Test Methods for Measuring Adhesion by Tape Test²

F 977 Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Walkers³

2.2 Federal Regulations:⁴

16CFR 1303 Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead-Containing Paint

16CFR 1500 Hazardous Substance Act Regulations

16CFR 1500.48 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Point in Toys or Other Articles Intended for Use By Children Under Eight Years of Age

16CFR 1500.49 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Metal or Glass Edge in Toys or Other Articles Intended for Use By Children Under Eight Years of Age

16CFR 1500.50-.51 Test Methods for Simulating Use and Abuse of Toys and Other Articles for Use by Children

¹ This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.21 on Hand-Held Infant Carriers, Bouncers, and Baby Swings.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07.

⁴ Code of Federal Regulations, available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.