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Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Bath Seats[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1967; 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 (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification is intended to address certain incidents associated with the use of bath seats, bath rings, and other similar devices.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) identified drowning incidents which generally involved infants either tipping over, climbing out of, or sliding through the product after being left unattended by their caregiver.

This specification does not address incidents in which bath seats are unreasonably misused, are used in a careless manner that disregards the warnings and instructions that are provided with each product, or those instances where the caregiver leaves the infant unattended in the product.

This consumer safety specification is written within the current state-of-the-art product technology. It is intended that this specification will be updated whenever substantive information becomes available and known to ASTM which necessitates additional requirements or justifies the revision of existing requirements.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification establishes performance requirements, test methods, and labelling requirements to promote the safe use of infant bath seats. Products commonly referred as bath rings are also included in the scope of this standard.

1.2 This consumer safety specification is intended to reduce the risk of death and minimize injury to infants resulting from use and reasonably foreseeable abuse of infant bath seats.

1.3 No infant bath seat produced after the approval date of this consumer safety specification shall, either by label or other means, indicate compliance with this specification unless it conforms to all requirements contained herein.

1.4 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 9, 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 limitations prior to use.*

1.5 The test values and dimensions stated in inch–pound units are to be regarded as standard. SI values in parentheses are given for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 3359 Test Method for Measuring Adhesion by Tape Test[2]

F 462 Consumer Safety Specification for Slip-Resistant Bathing Facilities[3]

F 963 Standard Consumer Safety Specification on Toy Safety[3]

2.2 *Federal Regulations:*[4]

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

16 CFR 1500 Federal Hazardous Substances Act Regulations, including sections:

1500.48 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Point in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 8 Years of Age

1500.49 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Metal or Glass Edge in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 8 Years of Age

1500.50 Test Methods for Simulating Use and Abuse of Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children

1500.51 Test Methods for Simulating Use and Abuse of Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children 18 Months of Age or Less

16 CFR 1501 Method for Identifying Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 3 Years of Age Which Present Choking, Aspiration, or Ingestion Hazards Because of Small Parts

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.20 on Bath Seats.

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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.

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *bath seat*—a bath seat, bath ring, or other similar product intended to be placed into a bath tub, sink, or similar bathing enclosure to provide support to a seated infant during bathing by an adult caregiver. The product is intended for use only with an infant who is capable of sitting upright unassisted.

3.1.2 *locking or latching mechanism*—method of preventing a bath seat from folding or collapsing during use.

3.1.3 *manufacturer's recommended use position(s)*—any position which is presented as a normal, allowable, or acceptable configuration for the use of the product by the manufacturer in any descriptive or instructional literature. This specifically excludes positions which the manufacturer shows in a like manner in its literature to be unacceptable, unsafe or not recommended.

3.1.4 *occupant*—that individual who is in an infant bath seat in one of the manufacturer's recommended use positions.

3.1.5 *principal display panel*—that part of the product's package which is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown or examined under normal or customary conditions of display for retail sale.

3.1.6 *stability*—the ability of a bath seat to remain upright in all of the manufacturer's recommended use positions.

3.1.7 *static load*—a vertically downward load applied by weights or other means.

4. Calibration and Standardization

4.1 Unless otherwise noted, the bath seat shall be completely assembled in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

4.2 The product to be tested shall be in a room with an ambient temperature of 73 ± 9°F (23 ± 5°C) for at least 1 h prior to testing. Testing shall then be conducted within this temperature range.

4.3 All testing required by this specification shall be conducted on the same unit.

5. Performance Requirements

5.1 All decorated surfaces of the product shall comply with the requirements of 16 CFR 1303.

5.2 *Hazardous Sharp Point*—No sharp point as defined in 16 CFR 1500.48 shall be present on the product either before or after the product has been tested in accordance with Section 9.

5.3 *Hazardous Sharp Edge*—No sharp edge as defined in 16 CFR 1500.49 shall be present on the product either before or after the product has been tested in accordance with Section 9.

5.4 *Small Part*—No small part as defined in 16 CFR 1501 shall become detached from the product either before or after the product has been tested in accordance with Section 9.

5.5 *Openings*—Any shaped holes, slots or cracks that exist in the product in any of its manufacturer's recommended use positions and that are accessible to the toes or fingers of the occupant through or recessed, or both, into the surface of any rigid material that admits a 0.210 in. (5.30 mm) diameter rod, shall also admit a 0.375 in. (9.50 mm) diameter rod. Openings that have a minor dimension between 0.210 in. (5.30 mm) and 0.375 in. (9.50 mm) shall be permissible providing the depth is no greater than the minor dimension of the opening.

5.6 *Requirements for Toys*—Toy accessories attached to, removable from, or sold with bath seats, as well as their means of attachment, must meet applicable requirements of Consumer Safety Specification F 963.

5.7 *Protective Components*—If the child can grasp components between the thumb and forefinger, or teeth, (such as caps, sleeves, or plugs used for protection from sharp edges, points, or entrapment of fingers or toes), or if there is at least a 0.040 in. (1.00 mm) gap between the component and its adjacent parent component when the product is in its manufacturer's recommended use position(s), such component shall not be removed when tested in accordance with 9.1.

5.8 *Stability*—For bath seats whose primary method of stability is contact with the bathing surface and which provide support for an occupant's back and support for the sides or front or both of the occupant, the product shall not allow for any parts of the product to become separated from it, shall not sustain permanent damage and shall not tip over after being tested in accordance with 9.2.

5.9 *Restraint System*:

5.9.1 Bath seats, when in the manufacturer's recommended use position(s), which provide support for an occupant's back and support for the sides or front, or both, of the occupant's torso must provide a passive crotch restraint and comply with 5.9.1.1. The bath seat shall not include any additional restraint system which requires action on the part of the caregiver to secure the restraint.

5.9.1.1 A passive crotch restraint shall be assembled as part of the bath seat before shipment from the manufacturer or shall be designed such that the bath seat cannot be used without the passive crotch restraint in place. The passive crotch restraint shall be permanently attached to the bath seat.

5.9.2 Bath seats, when in the manufacturer's recommended use position(s), which provide support for an occupant's back only and do not provide support for the sides and/or front of the occupant's torso shall comply with 5.9.2.1.

5.9.2.1 These bath seats are not required to have a restraint. However, if one is provided, it must be either a passive crotch restraint which complies with 5.9.1 or both a waist and crotch restraint in which the crotch restraint shall be designed such that its use is mandatory when the restraint system is in use.

5.10 *Latching or Locking Mechanism*—Any unit that folds shall have a latching or locking device or other provision in the design that will prevent the unit from unintentionally folding when properly placed in the manufacturer's recommended use position(s). During and upon completion of the test in accordance with 9.3.1, the unit shall remain in the manufacturer's recommended use position, and the latching or locking mechanism shall remain engaged and operative after testing. For all single action locking/latching mechanisms, the mechanism shall not release with a minimum force of 10 lbf (45 N) when tested in accordance with 9.3.2. For all double action locking/latching mechanisms, there is no force requirement when tested in accordance with 9.3.2.

5.11 *Scissoring, Shearing, and Pinching*—When in the manufacturer's recommended use position(s), the product shall be designed and constructed to prevent injury to the occupant

from any scissoring, shearing, or pinching when members or components rotate about a common axis or fastening point, slide, pivot, fold or otherwise move relative to one another. Scissoring, shearing, or pinching exists when the edges of the rigid parts admit a probe greater than 0.210 in. (5.3 mm) and less than 0.375 in. (9.5 mm) at any accessible point throughout the range of motion of such parts.

5.12 *Static Load*—The product shall not break, become permanently deformed or damaged, or fail to comply with any of the other requirements of this standard when tested in accordance with 9.5.

6. Labeling Requirements

6.1 Each unit of product and its packaging shall be labeled with the safety alert symbol (exclamation mark within an equilateral triangle), the signal word WARNING in all capital letters, as well as the following two sentences:

Prevent drowning. ALWAYS keep baby within arm's reach.

The signal word and all other capital letters shall be in sans serif type face with letters not less than 0.2 in. (5 mm) in height, with all remainder of the text not less than 0.1 in. (2.5 mm) in height. Specified warning(s) on both the product and the package shall be distinctively separated from any other wording or designs and shall appear in the English language at a minimum. They shall also be in a contrasting color to the background on which they are located.

6.2 Specified warning(s) on the product shall be located so that they are visible to the adult caregiver when the product is in the manufacturer's recommended use position(s) and the occupant is in the product.

6.3 Specified warning(s) on the package shall be on the principal display panel.

6.4 Specified warning(s) on the product shall be permanent and readable when tested in accordance with 9.4.

6.5 Products not recommended by the manufacturer to be used on a slip-resistant surface, as defined in Specification F 462, shall also include a warning to this effect on the principal display panel of the package. This warning shall use the signal word WARNING preceded by the safety alert symbol. In addition, if there are other types of surfaces that the manufacturer does not recommend the product to be used on, then additional warnings should be given regarding such surfaces. These warning(s) shall meet the requirements as described in 6.1 for letter height, language, color, and type.

6.6 Under no circumstances shall any manufacturer's warnings or statements indicate that the infant may be left in the product without the caregiver in attendance.

7. Instructional Literature

7.1 All units shall have instructional literature enclosed which explains to the caregiver the proper use of the product. Such literature shall include instructions for assembly, maintenance, cleaning, inspections, limitations of the product, and storage, as well as the manufacturer's recommended use position(s).

7.2 Instructional literature shall also include the warning specified in 6.1 and, in addition, shall emphasize and reinforce the requirement that the parent or adult caregiver should *always* be present within arm's reach of the infant in the bath seat, regardless of the circumstances.

7.3 Instructional literature shall also include the warning(s) specified in 6.5 when applicable.

7.4 Instructional literature shall instruct the caregiver to discontinue the use of the product if it becomes damaged, broken, or disassembled.

7.5 Under no circumstances shall any manufacturer's warnings or statements indicate that the infant may be left in the product without the caregiver in attendance.

8. Producer's Markings

8.1 Each unit of product and its package shall be marked with the name and address (city, state, and zip code) of the manufacturer or distributor.

8.2 A permanent code mark or other product indentification shall be provided on the product and its package or shipping container. The code will identify the model number and the date (month and year) of manufacture and permit future identification of any given model. Any upholstery label required by law shall not be used to bear the code mark or identification.

8.3 The manufacturer shall change the model number whenever the product undergoes a significant structural or design modification or a change that affects its conformance to this consumer safety specification.

9. Test Methods

9.1 *Removal of Components*:

9.1.1 If the torque and tension tests are to be conducted on the product, first completely submerge the testable components for 20 min in clear water that is at an initial temperature of 100 to 105°F (37.8 to 40.6°C). Conduct the torque and tension tests within 10 min. after removal from the water.

9.1.2 *Torque Test for Graspable Components*:

9.1.2.1 Using any convenient method to hold the parent component in place, grasp the component to be tested and apply a torque evenly over a period of 5 s in a clockwise direction until either a rotation of 180° is attained or a torque value of 4 lbf·in. (0.4 N·m) has been reached.

9.1.2.2 Maintain the torque value or the 180° rotation for an additional 10 s and then allow the component to return to its original position.

9.1.2.3 Repeat this test using a torque in the counterclockwise direction.

9.1.3 *Tension Test for Graspable Components*—The same component that has undergone the torque test shall also undergo the following tension test immediately following the torque test:

9.1.3.1 Hold the parent component in place using a suitable device and then grasp the component to be tested and apply a tension force of 15 lbf (67 N) evenly over a period of 5 s in the direction normally associated with the removal of the component. The device used to grasp the component should not compress or expand the component being tested so that it hinders any possible removal.

9.1.3.2 Maintain this force for an additional 10 s.

9.2 *Stability*:

9.2.1 Install the product according to the manufacturer's instructions onto the test surface(s) specified in 9.2.3. If the