



Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Expansion Gates and Expandable Enclosures¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1004; 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 addresses incidents of head and neck entrapment in children's expansion gates and expandable enclosures. It also addresses the ability of a pressure gate to resist a push-out force.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) identified incidents that generally involved a child's head or neck, or both, becoming entrapped in diamond shaped openings and strangulation of children in V-shapes at the top of accordion style expansion gates or expandable enclosures. Additional incidents and injuries were identified that involved children attempting to climb up and over expansion gates and expandable enclosures, and pushing or pulling pressure gates out of doorways.

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

This specification does not address incidents in which gates or enclosures are blatantly misused although warnings and safety instructions are required to be displayed prominently on and with each gate or enclosure.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification establishes minimum safety performance requirements, test methods, and requirements for labeling and instructional material to minimize hazards to young children resulting from the normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse and abuse of expansion gates and expandable enclosures.

1.2 Products known as expansion gates and expandable enclosures, or by any other name, which are in the scope of this consumer safety specification are intended for young children aged six months through 24 months, and are defined in Section 3.

1.3 Expansion gates and expandable enclosures defined in Section 3 are for domestic use and are not to be confused with other types of gates or enclosures that may be specifically designed for commercial, institutional, agricultural, pet use, or any other such use.

1.4 No expansion gate or expandable enclosure as defined in Section 3, that is, produced after the approval date of this consumer safety specification either by label or other means, shall indicate compliance with this specification unless it

conforms to all the requirements contained herein.

1.5 For expediency, expansion gates and expandable enclosures as defined in Section 3 will heretofore be referred to in this consumer safety specification as "gates" and "enclosures" unless referred to definitively.

1.6 The following pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 7, 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.*

1.7 The values as stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The metric values given in parentheses are for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 3359 Test Methods for Measuring Adhesion by Tape Test²

2.2 Federal Regulations:³

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

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.16 on Highchairs, Hook-On Chairs, and Expandable Gates.

Current edition approved Nov. 10, 2000. Published February 2001. Originally published as F 1004 – 86. Last previous edition F 1004 – 98.

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

³ *Code of Federal Regulations* is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 21402.

- 16 CFR 1500 Hazardous Substances Act Regulations, Including Parts:
- 16 CFR 1500.48 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Point in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under Eight Years of Age
- 16 CFR 1500.49 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Metal or Glass Edge in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under Eight-Years of Age
- 16 CFR 1501 Method for Identifying Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under Three Years of Age Which Present Choking, Aspiration, or Ingestion Hazards Because of Small Parts

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *completely-bounded opening, n*—any opening in the main structure of a product that is enclosed totally by boundaries on all sides.

3.1.2 *conspicuous, adj*—a label which is visible, when the gate/expandable enclosure is in a manufacturer's recommended use position, to a person standing near the gate/expandable enclosure at any one position around the gate/expandable enclosure, but not necessarily visible from all positions.

3.1.3 *double-action locking mechanism, n*—a locking mechanism that requires two distinct and separate actions in a single lock to activate the release mechanism.

3.1.4 *expandable enclosures, n*—a self-supporting barrier intended to completely surround an area or play-space within which a young child (see 1.2) may be confined. Enclosures may be marketed for indoor or outdoor use, or both.

3.1.5 *expansion gate, n*—a barrier intended to be erected in an opening, such as a doorway, to prevent the passage of young children (see 1.2), but which can be removed by older persons who are able to operate the locking mechanism. Such gates are available in a number of different styles of construction and are manufactured from a variety of different materials.

3.1.6 *manufacturer's recommended use position(s)*—any position to prevent passage of a child which the manufacturer represents as a normal, allowable or acceptable configuration. This specifically excludes positions, which the manufacturer shows in a like manner in its literature to be unacceptable, unsafe or not recommended.

3.1.7 *nonpaper label, n*—any label material, such as plastic or metal, which either will not tear without the aid of tools or tears leaving a sharply-defined edge.

3.1.8 *paper label, n*—any label material, which tears without the aid of tools and leaves a fibrous edge.

3.1.9 *partially-bounded opening, n*—any opening in the main structure of a product that is not enclosed totally by boundaries on all sides. For example, a V-shape in the top of an accordion slat-style product or a rectangular notch resulting from a gap between a wall surface and the main structure of a baby gate would be considered a partially-bounded opening.

3.1.10 *static load, n*—a vertically downward force applied by a calibrated force gage or by dead weights.

4. Calibration and Standardization

4.1 All testing shall be conducted on a concrete floor which

may be covered with 1/8-in. (3-mm) thick vinyl floor cover, unless the test instructs differently.

4.2 The gate/expandable enclosure shall be completely assembled, unless otherwise noted, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

4.3 No testing shall be conducted within 48 h of manufacturing.

4.4 The product to be tested shall be preconditioned in a room with an ambient temperature of $73^{\circ} \pm 9^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($23^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$) for at least 1 h prior to testing. Testing then shall be conducted within this temperature range.

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

5. General Requirements

5.1 *Wood Parts*—Prior to testing, any exposed wood parts shall be smooth and free from splinters.

5.2 Screws shall not be used in the assembly of any components or locking or attaching device (or devices) that are intended to be removed by the consumer during daily operations.

5.3 There shall be no hazardous sharp edges or points as defined by 16 CFR 1500.48 and 16 CFR 1500.49 before or after testing to this consumer safety specification.

5.4 There shall be no small parts as defined by 16 CFR 1501 before testing or liberated as a result of testing to this specification.

5.5 *Latching or Locking Mechanisms*—Any unit that folds, or has a moveable panel, 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. The unit shall remain in its manufacturer's recommended use position during and upon completion of the test, described at 7.1. If a unit is designed with a latching or locking device in order to prevent folding, that device shall remain engaged and operative after testing.

5.6 *Openings*—Any shaped holes, slots, or cracks through or recessed, or both, into the surface of any rigid material that exist in the product that is in its manufacturer's recommended use position and that are accessible to the toes or fingers of the child that admit a 0.210-in. (5.33-mm) diameter rod, also shall admit a 0.375-in. (9.53-mm) diameter rod at the same location. Openings that have a minor dimension between 0.210-in. (5.33-mm) and 0.375-in. (9.53-mm) shall be permissible, providing the depth is no greater than the minimum dimensions of the opening. See Figs. 1 and 2 for examples of acceptable and unacceptable openings.

5.7 *Exposed Coil Springs*—Any exposed coil spring, which is accessible to the occupant having or capable of generating a space between coils of 0.210 in. (5.33 mm) or greater during static load testing in accordance with 7.1 shall be covered or otherwise designed to prevent injury from entrapment.

5.8 *Scissoring, Shearing, and Pinching*—The gate/expandable enclosure when in the manufacturer's recommended use position(s) shall be designed and constructed to prevent injury to the child from any scissoring, shearing, or pinching when members or components rotate about a common axis or fastening point, slide, pivot, fold, or otherwise move

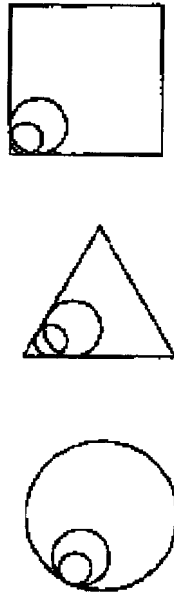


FIG. 1 Acceptable Openings

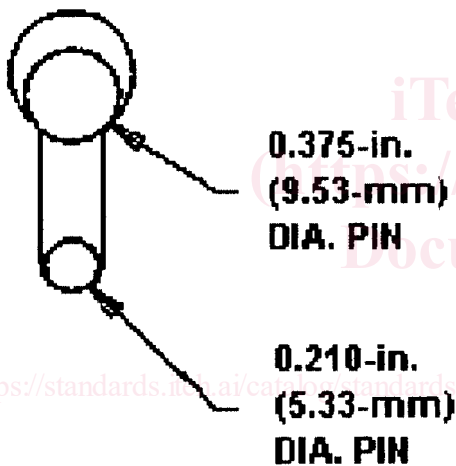


FIG. 2 Unacceptable Openings

relative to one another. Scissoring, shearing, or pinching that may cause injury shall not be permissible when the edges of any rigid parts admit a probe greater than 0.210 in. (5.33 mm) and less than 0.375 in. (9.53 mm) diameter at any accessible point through the range of motion of such parts.

5.9 Labeling:

5.9.1 Warning labels (whether paper or nonpaper) shall be permanent when tested in accordance with 7.5.1-7.5.3.

5.9.2 Warning statements applied directly onto the surface of the product by hot stamping, heat transfer, printing, wood burning, etc., shall be permanent when tested in accordance with 7.5.4.

5.9.3 Nonpaper labels shall not liberate small parts when tested in accordance with 7.5.5.

5.10 Push-Out Test—Pressure-mounted gates shall be tested in accordance with 7.6. At each test location the average push-out force shall exceed 30 lbf (133 N). In addition, each individual force shall exceed 20 lbf (89 N). Pressure gates that fail to meet these requirements shall bear a warning that they shall not be used at the top of stairs, in accordance with 8.5.5.

6. Performance Requirements

6.1 The following performance requirements apply to gates and enclosures when they are erected or installed in the manufacturer’s recommended use position.

6.1.1 Completely-Bounded Openings—Openings shall not permit the passage of the Small Torso Template A (see Fig. 3) when tested in accordance with 7.2

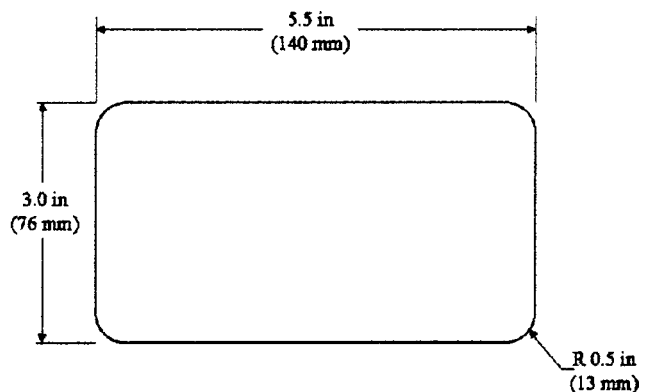
6.1.2 Height of Sides—The vertical distance from the floor to the lowest point of the uppermost surface shall not be less than 22 in. (560 mm) when measured from the floor.

6.1.3 Vertical Strength—Top rails, slats, and framing components of the gates or enclosures shall be tested in accordance with 7.1 and shall not fracture, disengage, fold, or have a permanent deflection that reduces the lowest point of the uppermost surface of a gate or enclosure (see 6.1.2) to a dimension of less than 22 in. (560 mm) when measured vertically from the floor.

6.1.4 Bottom Spacing—The vertical distance from the floor to the highest point of the lowermost surface of the unit shall not permit the passage of the Small Torso Template A (see Fig. 3) as tested in accordance with 7.2.

6.1.5 Configuration of Uppermost Edge—A partially bounded opening at any point in the uppermost edge of a product that is greater than 1.5 in (38 mm) in width and more than 0.64 in. (16.2 mm) in depth shall be subjected to the test procedure in 7.3 (see Fig. 4). During the test, no portions of the boundaries of the opening shall simultaneously contact more than one of surfaces “B,” “C,” or corner “BC” or “CC” in any combination if they are not opposing sides of the center line of Test Template B (see Fig. 5).

6.1.6 Protective Components—If a child can grasp protective components, such as caps, sleeves, or plugs used for protection from sharp edges, points, or entrapment of fingers or toes, between the thumb and forefinger, or teeth, or if there is at least a 0.040 in. (1.00 mm) gap between the component and its adjacent parent component, such components shall not be

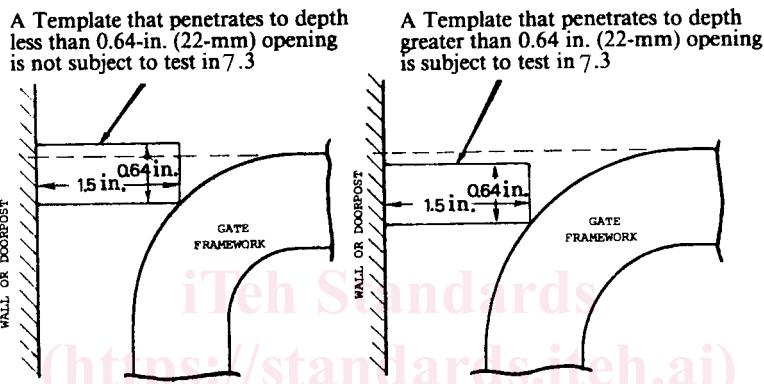
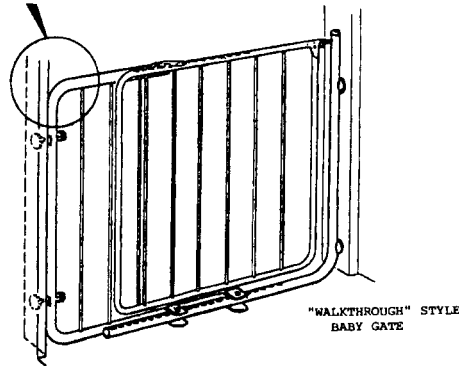


5.5 in. = Hip breadth of 5th percentile 6-8 month old
 3.0 in. = Buttocks depth of 5th percentil 5-6 month old
 Perimeter of template, 16.14 in. = hip circumference of 5th percentile 6-8 month old

NOTE 1—Small Torso Template A is to be constructed of smooth rigid material not less than 1/8 in. (3.18 mm) thick.

FIG. 3 Small Torso Template A

Partially-bounded opening presents potential risk of head/neck entrapment



NOTE 1—Use a rectangular template to determine when a partially-bounded opening must be tested with Test Template B in accordance with 7.3.

FIG. 4 Walk-Through Style Baby Gate and Walls or Doorposts

removed when tested in accordance with 7.4.

7. Test Methods

7.1 Vertical Strength (6.1.3 and 5.5):

7.1.1 *Gates*—Adjust the gate to the maximum opening width recommended by the manufacturer. Apply a static load of 45 lbf (200 N) vertically downward five times to each of the top points of the gate (or on center for gates with horizontal top rail). The force shall be applied through a 2 by 2 by 3/4 in. (50 by 50 by 19 mm) wood block. Gradually apply the force within 5 s and maintain for an additional 10 s, with approximately 5 s intervals between applications. Repeat the test with the gate adjusted to the minimum opening width recommended by the manufacturer.

7.1.2 *Enclosures*—The same loading procedure as specified in 7.1.1 is applicable but shall be applied to every other top joint. If the joints are different, apply load to the joints, which are more likely to result in a nonconformance as defined in 5.3.

7.2 *Size of Completely-Bounded Openings (6.1.1 and 6.1.4)*—The size of any completely-bounded opening shall not permit passage of Small Torso Template A (see Fig. 3) when the template is rotated to any orientation about its own axis and parallel to the plane of the opening (see Figs. 1-6).

7.3 *Partially-Bounded Openings at the Uppermost Edge (6.1.5):*

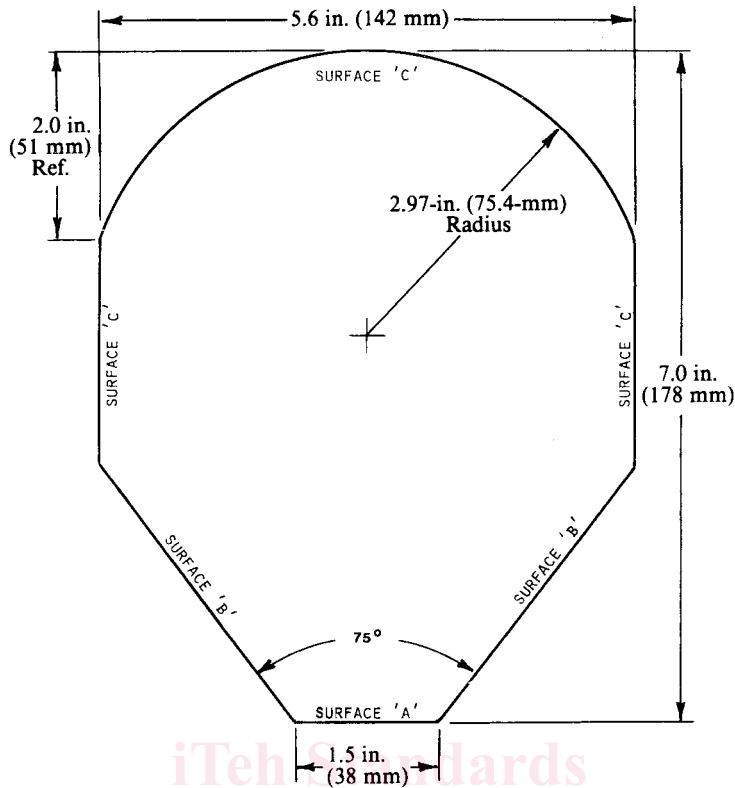
7.3.1 Place Test Template B (see Fig. 5) vertically downward into the opening with its center line vertical and the plane

of the template parallel to the plane of the opening, until downward motion is arrested by contact between the test template and the boundaries of the opening. By visual inspection, determine if there is simultaneous contact between more than one of surfaces “B” or “C,” or corners “BC” or “CC,” in any combination, that are on opposite sides of the template center line.

7.3.2 If the opening conforms to the requirements, but is not symmetrical about a vertical centerline, perform the following additional test:

7.3.2.1 Rock the template sideways (parallel to the plane of the opening), while maintaining contact between the boundary of the opening and surface “A” or corners “AB,” or both. The rocking motion shall be terminated when there is either contact between a boundary of the opening and a surface or corner of the template other than surface “A” or corners “AB,” or until surface “B” attains a vertical orientation. Again, visually determine if there is simultaneous contact between more than one of surfaces “B” or “C,” or corners “BC” or “CC,” in any combination, that are on opposite sides of the template center line. If such contact occurs, the opening fails to conform to the requirement.

7.3.3 If a product contains any partially-bounded openings, which change their configuration if the product is erected to less than the maximum dimension claimed by the manufacturer, the test for conformance shall be repeated at the minimum dimension and, at the discretion of the test personnel,



NOTE 1—Test Template B is to be constructed of smooth rigid material not less than 1/8-in. (3.18-mm) thick.

FIG. 5 Test Template B

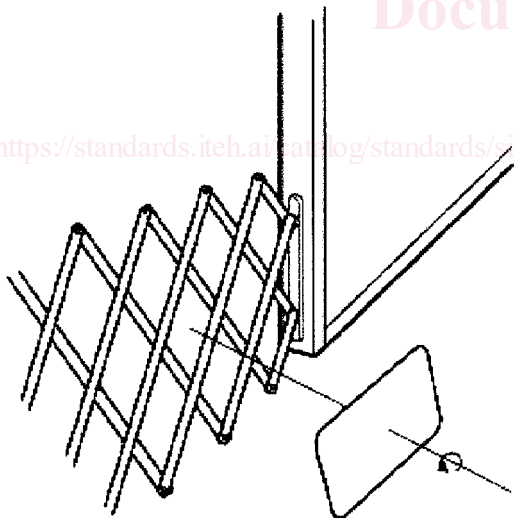


FIG. 6 Orientation for Small Torso Template A

at any dimension between the claimed minimum and maximum.

7.3.4 For any product in which the uppermost edge is a nonrigid member, the visual inspection for conformance to the requirement shall be performed when a force of 30 lbf (134 N) is applied vertically downwards to Test Template B (see Fig. 5).

7.4 Removal of Protective Components (6.1.6):

7.4.1 Components shall be tested in accordance with each of the following methods in the sequence listed.

7.4.2 Securely affix the gate/expandable enclosure so that it cannot move during performance of the following tests.

7.4.3 Tension Test—Attach a force gauge to the component (cap, sleeve, or plug) by means of any suitable device. A clamp, such as shown in Fig. 7 may be a suitable device for components that cannot reasonably be expected to be grasped by a child's fingers on their outer diameter but which have a gap of 0.040 in. (1.00 mm) or more between the rear face of the component and the structural member of the gate/expandable enclosure to which they are attached.

7.4.3.1 The attachment device shall not compress or expand the component so that it hinders any possible removal.

7.4.3.2 Apply force on the scale in a direction that normally would be associated with the removal of the protective component.

7.4.3.3 Apply the force gradually over a 5s period and hold for an additional 10s. The force required to break or remove the component shall not be less than 15 lbf (67 N). Repeat this procedure once.

7.4.4 Torque Test—A torque of 3 lbf-in. (0.3N-m) shall be applied gradually within a period of 5s in a clockwise direction until a rotation of 180° from the original position has been attained or 3 lbf-in. (0.3 N-m) has been reached. The torque or maximum rotation shall be maintained for an additional 10s. The torque shall then be removed and the test components permitted to return to a relaxed condition. This procedure shall then be repeated in the counter clockwise direction.

7.5 Label Testing (5.9):

7.5.1 A paper label (excluding labels attached by a seam)

15 lbf (67N) MAX TENSION

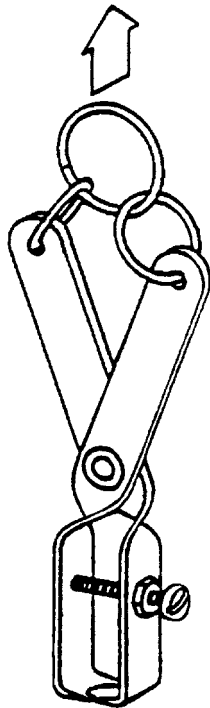


FIG. 7 Tension Test Adapter/Clamp

shall be considered permanent if, during an attempt to remove it without the aid of tools or solvents, it cannot be removed, it tears into pieces upon removal, or such action damages the surface to which it is attached.

7.5.2 A nonpaper label (excluding labels attached by a seam) shall be considered permanent if, during an attempt to remove it without the aid of tools or solvents, it cannot be removed or such action damages the surface to which it is attached.

7.5.3 A warning label attached by a seam shall be considered permanent if it does not detach when subjected to a 15-lbf (67-N) pull force applied in any direction using a 3/4-in. (19-mm) diameter clamp surface.

7.5.4 Adhesion test for warnings applied directly onto the surface of the product.

7.5.4.1 Apply the tape test defined in Test Method B (Cross-Cut Tape Test of Test Methods D 3359) eliminating parallel cuts.

7.5.4.2 Perform this test once in each different location where warnings are applied.

7.5.4.3 The warning statements will be considered permanent if the printing in the area tested is still legible and attached after being subjected to this test.

7.5.5 A nonpaper label, during an attempt to remove it without the aid of tools or solvents, shall not be removed or shall not fit entirely within the small parts cylinder defined in 16 CFR 1501 if it can be removed.

7.6 *Horizontal Push-Out Tests of Pressure Gates—Test Fixture:*

7.6.1 A test fixture, simulating a doorway, suitable for conducting this is shown in Fig. 8. There shall be a means to adjust the width of the opening in the fixture from a minimum

of 24 in. (610 mm) to a maximum of 50 in. (1270 mm). The height of the opening shall be approximately 36 in. (910 mm).

7.6.1.1 The vertical steel side members of the fixture shall be faced with 1 by 4-in. (25 by 100-mm) pine boards. A strip of lumber, approximately 3/4 by 1/2-in. (19 by 13-mm) shall be affixed to each of the facing boards to simulate a doorstop and to serve in positioning the test gate in the opening. All wooden components shall be painted with a semigloss latex paint.

7.6.1.2 The test fixture shall have some means to ensure that the pine boards are parallel after the width of the opening has been adjusted to accommodate a specific gate sample.

7.6.2 *Test Procedure:*

7.6.2.1 Gate security tests shall be conducted at the minimum and maximum opening widths recommended by the manufacturer.

7.6.2.2 Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions when installing the gate in the test opening. For a gate in which the installation force may influence the test results, install the gate by applying a maximum force of 25 lbf (111 N) to a hand operated mechanism or a maximum force of 35 lbf (157 N) to a foot operated mechanism.

7.6.2.3 To ensure alignment, install the gate in the test opening with the sides of the pressure pads touching the molding that simulates a door stop. Care should be exercised to ensure that, when pressure is applied to the gate through the locking mechanism, bending of the gate's vertical end members does not cause these members to touch the doorstop molding.

7.6.2.4 Attach a cord (such as a venetian blind cord) to the gate at Location No. 1 (see Fig. 9). Secure the cord to a force gage with a range of at least 0 to 100 lbf (0 to 445 N) so that it passes over the top edge of the upper horizontal member.

7.6.2.5 Gradually apply a tensile force on the cord over a period of 5 s until it reaches 100 lbf (445 N) and sustain this force for an additional 10 s. Make sure that the force is applied perpendicular to the plane of the gate. If the gate contact surface loses contact with the test fixture before attaining 100 lbf (445 N), record the force at which loss of contact occurred. All tensile force applications shall be made from the side of the gate opposite to the side normally occupied by the child (see Fig. 9).

7.6.2.6 Repeat at Locations 2 and 3. Note that at Location No. 2, the cord should be attached to the gate by looping it over the pressure bar. If there is no pressure bar, at the midpoint in height of the gate, thread the cord through the mesh or bars in the gate. Location 3 should be at the side of the gate most likely to cause failure. Each location shall be tested five times and the five readings then shall be averaged.

8. Marking and Labeling

8.1 Each gate/expandable enclosure shall have a permanent label or marking that identifies the name and address (city, state, and zip code) of either the manufacturer, distributor, or seller.

8.2 A permanent code mark or other product identification shall be provided on the gate/expandable enclosure and its package or shipping container, if multiple packaging is used. The code will identify the date (month and year) of manufacture and permit future identification of any given model.