



# Housekeeping

by William D. Frye, Ph.D., CHE

## With the deadline looming, new baby crib standards will affect hotels

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The United States has issued new requirements for baby cribs to be bought and sold. As of December 2010, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has unanimously voted to ban the sale and resale of cribs with drop sides and to make their use in hotels and motels (among other establishments) illegal. The ban officially starts on June 28, 2011 with hotels and motels given an 18 month time period to replace inadequate and unsafe crib models. While cribs that are already in consumers' homes prior to June 28, 2011 are not affected by the new regulations, any cribs sold after June 28, 2011 or offered in hotels and motels on or after December 28, 2012 must meet the new standards.

This decision was prompted by at least 32 infant and toddler deaths since 2000 who were killed due to faulty crib design. Since 2005, several crib manufacturers have recalled more than 9 million defective cribs, including a massive recall in 2009 of more than 2.1 million drop-side cribs by a single manufacturer. As of June 28, 2011 all cribs sold (or resold) must comply with the new federal mandatory regulations.

The various dangers of drop side cribs were the moving force behind these regulations. With drop side cribs, plastic drop-side hardware often broke or warped. Some types of soft wood allowed the hardware on the drop side to come loose faster. Many individuals purchasing drop side cribs also assembled the drop side upside-down, which increased wear and tear on the crib hardware. Finally, drop side pieces would go missing over time and the cribs weren't re-assembled properly. All of these issues can allow a gap to form between the crib mattress and part of the drop side. As a result, babies became trapped and suffocated in that gap.

### What are the new standards for cribs?

Beginning June 28, 2011, all cribs manufactured and sold (including resale) must comply with new and improved federal safety standards. The new rules, which apply to full-size and non full-size cribs, prohibit the manufacture or sale of traditional drop-side rail cribs, strengthen crib slats and mattress supports, improve the quality of hardware and require more rigorous testing. See the diagram on page 3 to learn the five new federal requirements. The details of the rules are available on CPSC's website at [www.cpsc.gov/businfo/frnotices/fr11/cribfinal.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/frnotices/fr11/cribfinal.pdf).

As stated previously, the new rules also apply to cribs currently in use at hotels and motels. By December 28, 2012, these facilities must use only compliant cribs that meet the new federal safety standards.

### Are all drop-side rail cribs "recalled"?

There has not been a specific "recall" of all drop-side cribs due to the new regulation. Instead, some manufacturers recently



have recalled their cribs in cooperation with the CPSC because a specific defect or risk of harm has been discovered relating to a particular crib. Although these recalls are separate from CPSC's new crib standards, traditional drop-side cribs will not meet the new crib standards that will take effect on June 28, 2011, and cribs with traditional drop-sides cannot be sold after that date.

### How do I know whether a specific crib in my hotel meets the new standards?

You cannot tell from looking at a crib whether it meets the new standards. It is not likely that cribs in use before the Commission issued its crib rule in December 2010 will comply with the new standards. If you are considering purchasing new cribs for your hotel that meet the standards, you may want to ask the manufacturer or retailer whether the crib complies with regulation [16 CFR 1219](#) (the new standard for full-size cribs) or regulation [16 CFR 1220](#) (the new standard for non-full-size cribs). Manufacturers are required to test samples of their cribs to the new standards and to certify that they comply with the new standards. They must provide this certification to the retailer.

Hoteliers can ask the manufacturer or retailer for a copy of the certificate of compliance that should indicate that the crib is certified to meet [16 CFR 1219](#) or [16 CFR 1220](#). After June 28, 2011, all cribs manufactured or offered for sale, lease, or resale are required to meet the new crib standards.

### Who will be enforcing the crib standards?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) will be the main agency enforcing the new crib standards. The initial focus will be on manufacturers and retailers since they must comply with the new standards by June 28, 2011. Anyone who is covered by the new crib standards and does not comply commits a prohibited act under section 19(a)(1) of the [Consumer Product Safety Act](#) (CPSA). A person or company that knowingly commits a prohibited act is subject to possible civil penalties. States' attorneys general also have authority to enforce the crib standards through injunctions.

### What does this mean for hotels?

Hotels and motels have until December 28, 2012, to ensure that the cribs used in their facilities meet the requirements of the CPSC's new crib standards. After this date, places of public accommodation may no longer use traditional drop-side cribs or noncompliant cribs and must use cribs meeting the new federal safety standards.

As the compliance date draws closer, hoteliers can expect guests with babies and toddlers to inquire about the new standards and to assure them that the hotel's cribs comply with the new federal regulations. Hoteliers that misrepresent the current status of their crib inventory may be caught "red-handed" when guests check through the Consumer Product Safety Commission website to verify if the crib provided by the hotel is indeed in compliance. Attempts to deceive a guest on this matter may result in them contacting the CPSC and filing a complaint, which will likely result in an investigation.

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**  
**A SAFER GENERATION OF CRIBS**  
New Federal Requirements



**5 New Federal Requirements:**

- ◆ Traditional drop-side cribs cannot be made or sold; immobilizers and repair kits not allowed
- ◆ Wood slats must be made of stronger woods to prevent breakage
- ◆ Crib hardware must have anti-loosening devices to keep it from coming loose or falling off
- ◆ Mattress supports must be more durable
- ◆ Safety testing must be more rigorous

**Beginning June 28, 2011 all cribs sold in the United States must meet new federal requirements for overall crib safety.**

  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)  
  
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 Safe Sleep is a campaign of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Additionally, hotels and motels are precluded from utilizing “immobilizers” to bring drop side cribs into compliance. While drop-side cribs in private homes can be retrofitted to meet compliance standards, commercial establishments are not permitted to do the same. Hence, if your hotel’s existing cribs do not meet the new compliance regulations, you have until December 28, 2012 to obtain cribs that do meet the new regulations and to dispose of the sub-standard cribs.

Hotels and motels should not resell, donate or give away a crib that does not meet the new crib standards, such as trying to resell the product through an online auction site or donating it to a local thrift store. The CPSC recommends disassembling the crib before discarding it.

For additional information about cribs or to check if your hotel’s cribs have been recalled, please visit the CPSC Crib Information Center website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/cribs/index.html>. ✧

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