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World's toughest crib standard effective today

Only cribs meeting the tough new standard can be sold: new or used

(CHICAGO) After years of crib recalls, reports of deaths in unsafe cribs and heel-dragging by the industry, today marks the effective date of the world's toughest standard for baby cribs. A requirement of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA), the new standards will ensure that cribs sold after today will be durable and safe.

“Over 12 million cribs have been recalled for faulty hardware, breaking slats, dangerous drop-side designs and other flaws in the last four years. Almost all of them had passed the weak industry testing standards that were currently available,” stated Nancy Cowles, Executive Director of Kids In Danger. “This new standard will assure that cribs being sold will be safe *and* durable – providing peace of mind to parents and safety for children.”

KID was joined by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and representatives of Illinois Action for Children and SIDS of Illinois.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission developed the new standards and adopted them in December 2010. They provide much needed rigorous test requirements along with the requirement that the testing be done by independent labs. The new standards require:

- a ban on the drop-side design responsible for dozens of deaths,
- stringent durability testing – giving some assurance that the cribs will be sturdy enough for real world use,
- additional testing of slat and mattress support strength, two issues that have led to injuries and deaths,
- requirements that cribs must be able to be assembled only in the correct configuration or provide strong visual cues to parents that

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- the assembly is incorrect, and
- additional warnings to parents about the age and developmental stage at which children should be moved from cribs to prevent falls.

The requirement that cribs and other juvenile products be subject to third party testing and strong mandatory standards was first introduced in Congress in 2001 by US Representative Jan Schakowsky (IL-9). The provisions were incorporated into the 2008 CPSIA in a section named in Danny Keysar's honor. Danny's parents founded Kids In Danger.

"After 12 million recalls since 2007, we are finally on the right path. Rigorous requirements for safety testing, crib hardware, slat strength, and mattress supports save lives," said Rep. Schakowsky. "We need to continue to fight to make sure that any efforts to roll back safety standards for children's products do not succeed."

The new mandatory standard in addition to being the world's strongest, also is unique in that starting today, it is illegal to sell cribs that do not meet this tough new standard. That provision extends to used sales as well, assuring that yesterday's dangerous cribs won't continue to be sold or traded in the future. Since the first reports of drop-side and other crib recalls in 2007, the Illinois Attorney General's office has been instrumental in getting recalled cribs off store shelves and out of homes here in Illinois. The 2008 CPSIA gave powers to states' Attorneys General to enforce its provisions.

"After years of hard work, we finally have tough federal standards to remove deadly drop-side cribs from the market," said Attorney General Madigan. "While today is a huge victory, our work is not done. We must make sure manufacturers comply with these new standards, and I encourage consumers to call my office's Product Recall Hotline at 1-888-414-7678 to report any drop-side cribs they find for sale in retail stores or on the second-hand market."

After 18 months, all child care facilities and other public accommodations will have to provide only cribs meeting the new standards.

"We applaud the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Kids in Danger for taking bold and decisive action for the safety of young children," said Maria Whelan, President of Illinois Action for Children. "Not only will these guidelines ensure a higher

standard of safety for all new cribs sold, they also take the critical step of ensuring that all cribs used in child care settings meet the same high standards by the end of 2012.”

“Cribs are the one product meant to be safe enough to leave babies unattended,” added Cowles. “Parents aren’t all engineers and can’t determine themselves if the design and manufacture of a crib are safe. These new standards and the cribs that can meet them will give parents peace of mind.”

“SIDS of Illinois is thrilled about the new crib guidelines, said Pam Borchardt, Executive Director - Operations and Bereavement. “This will make it easier for our organization to educate parents and caregivers on safe sleep for their infants. With safer cribs, we can focus on educating parents and caregivers to keep the crib free of bumpers, pillows, blankets and other soft bedding that can increase the risk of sleep related infant deaths.”

Retailers have been preparing for today by selling all their older stock and getting new product from the manufacturers. Every crib sold from today forward must meet the standard. Parents can ask retailers which standards the cribs meet – it should be 16 CFR 1219 for full size cribs or 16 CFR 1220 for non-full size cribs. The CPSC has excellent resources at their website, both a [Q&A](#) and [poster](#) (PDF).

Selling a crib that doesn’t meet the new standard is illegal and they cannot be donated to charity. Parents who are using older cribs might consider replacing them, especially if they are drop-side cribs. If cribs that don’t meet the new standards are seen being sold at retail, online or at rummage or garage sales, contact the US Consumer Product Safety Commission at 800-638-2772 or www.cpsc.gov/talk or the Illinois Attorney General at 888-414-7678.