



Preventing accidental injury.

April 10, 2009

ASTM Cribs Subcommittee
ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Drive
P.O. Box C700
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, I write to express our support for removing drop-side crib characteristics from ASTM Standard F1169, the *Standard Specification for Full-Size Baby Cribs*.

As you know, we have seen far too many cribs and bassinets recalled in recent years. Since January 2007, more than 5 million cribs and bassinets have been recalled due to serious safety risks. The vast majority of those recalled cribs, more than 3.2 million, were drop-side cribs that were recalled due to hardware problems. Moreover, at least 4 infant deaths have been associated with hardware deficiencies in recalled drop-side cribs over the past two years.

These numbers are even more troubling when one considers that cribs are used by custom, practice and even design, to contain children for long periods of unsupervised time. When parents or caregivers place a young child in a crib, they trust that the child will be safe and secure within that space. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in far too many instances.

In our view, the minimal convenience value of a drop-side to the caregiver is far outweighed by the risks posed to the health and safety of the child. Therefore, we urge the ASTM Cribs Subcommittee to remove drop-side crib characteristics from ASTM Standard F1169.

If you have any questions or if Safe Kids can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 662-4463.

Sincerely,

Alan Korn
Director of Public Policy & General Counsel