

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION



Office of Compliance

Requirements¹ for Full Size Baby Cribs

16 C.F.R. Part 1508

What is the purpose of the full-size baby crib rule?

This rule seeks to prevent deaths and injuries from falls, entrapment, and contact with parts inside or outside a crib.

Where can I find the requirements for full-size cribs?

The requirements are published in the Code of Federal Regulations in Title 16, Part 1508. Cribs that do not meet one or more of the requirements are banned hazardous substances under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, 15 U.S.C. 1261(q)(1)(A).

What is a full-size baby crib?

A full-size baby crib is a bed designed to provide sleeping accommodations for an infant, that is intended for use in or around the home, and that is not covered under the rule for non-full-size cribs, 16 C.F.R. Part 1509. The interior of a full-size crib is 52 inches long by 28 inches wide.

What are the requirements for cribs?

Adjustable rails:

If a crib has the top rail that drops down to help place an infant in or take him or her out of the crib, to prevent the child from falling out,

- (1) the top of the adjustable rail at its highest position must be at least 26 inches above the top of the mattress support at its lowest position, and
- (2) the top of the adjustable rail at its lowest position must be at least 9 inches above the top of the mattress support at its highest position.

Slats, spindles, and other parts:

- (1) To prevent children from strangling because their bodies can slip through openings but their heads cannot, parts such as slats, spindles, corner posts and rods cannot be more than $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches apart at any point, and cannot be greater than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches

apart when the loading wedge test described below is performed;

- (2) the loading wedge (Figure 1) is a right triangle prism with a base of $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, a height of $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches measured at a right angle between the midpoint of the base and the bottom of the pulling attachment, and a width of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Please consult the regulation for the specifications for the pulling attachment.

To measure the strength of slats and other parts, place the nose of a loading wedge midway between two parts and midway between the top and bottom horizontal rails, and apply a 20 lb. force in the direction that pulls the nose of the wedge between the parts.

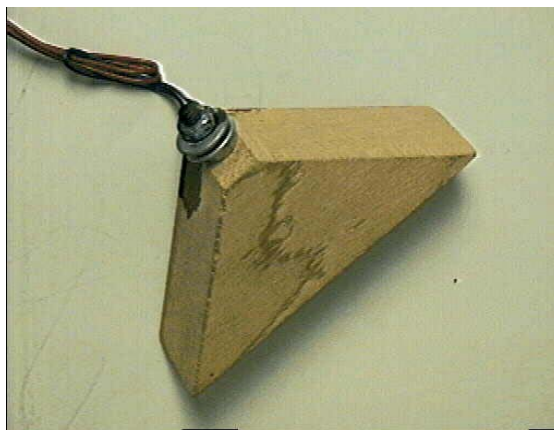


Figure 1 - Loading wedge

- (3) to prevent head entrapment, the space between contoured or irregular slats or spindles shall not allow a rectangular block $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches inserted in any position to pass through immediately above or below the loading wedge when the loading wedge test described above is performed.

¹ This document is a general summary of the full-size baby crib requirements and does not replace the requirements published in 16 C.F.R. 1508. Several provisions of the rule are based on the application of force or on linear measurements. These provisions also specify tolerances and the points from or at which such forces are applied or measurements made. Please refer to the text of the rule itself to obtain this information.

Hardware:

- (1) Hardware accessible to a child must be designed and constructed so that it does not pinch, bruise, crush, lacerate, break, or amputate any part of a child's body during normal use of or reasonably foreseeable damage or abuse to the crib;
- (2) Locking devices for dropside rails must require two distinct actions or a minimum of 10 pounds of force for release; and
- (3) wood screws may not be used to connect stationary sides, dropside rails, folding rails or stabilizing bars to crib ends or other parts that a consumer must remove during normal disassembly.

Construction and Finishing:

- (1) all wood surfaces must be smooth and free from splinters;
- (2) all wood parts shall be free from splits, cracks, or other defects that might cause a crib or any of its parts to fall off or come apart; and
- (3) end panels and sides, including any attachments, cannot have any horizontal bar, any ledge or projection with a depth greater than $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, or any other surface that a child inside the crib might use as a toehold. This only applies to possible toeholds located less than 20 inches above the mattress support in its lowest position when the side rail is in its highest position. The crib may still have a lower horizontal crib rail that is no more than 3 inches high, but there can be no gap between the bottom of that rail and the top surface of the mattress support.

Assembly Instructions and Labeling:

Every crib must be sold with detailed assembly instructions as well as identifying marks, cautionary statements and compliance declarations. Please refer to the regulation for the contents and placement of the required information, as well as for the requirements for keeping records of the sale and distribution of cribs.

Cutouts:

To prevent a risk of strangulation, the crib regulation contains a test to evaluate whether cutouts such as decorative openings sometimes

found on the tops of the ends of a crib create a risk of head or neck entrapment. The test requires that a specially designed probe that simulates a child's head and neck be inserted into each cutout according to a precise procedure. Because of the detail involved in manufacturing the head probe and in conducting the test, we have not attempted to summarize this procedure. For more detailed information, please refer to the regulation or contact the Office of Compliance.

What type of mattress should I use in a full-size crib?

To prevent head entrapment and suffocation between the mattress and crib sides, a mattress used in full-size cribs must be at least 27¼ inches by 51½ inches with a thickness not exceeding 6 inches. The assembly instructions, the retail carton for the crib, and the crib itself must contain a specific warning statement that contains these dimensions.

Does CPSC have any other requirements that apply to full-size cribs?

Yes. Under the Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products bearing Lead-Containing Paint, 16 C.F.R. Part 1303, no crib may be painted with paint that contains more than .06% lead.

Are there any other standards for full size cribs?

Yes. ASTM F 1169 and ASTM F 966 contain voluntary requirements related to full size baby cribs and to corner extension posts for full and non-full size cribs.

Where can I find additional information?

You can obtain the Requirements for Full-Size Baby Cribs, 16 C.F.R. Part 1508, from the Commission's Web Site at: <http://www.cpsc.gov>. For more information on these requirements, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance, Washington, D.C. 20207, telephone: (301) 504-0608, e-mail: sect15@cpsc.gov

To obtain copies of ASTM F 1169 and F 966, contact the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), 100 Barr Harbor Dr., West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, telephone: (610)-832-9585, Fax (610)-832-9555, or visit <http://www.astm.org>.