

# The First Baby Bed

## A Guide to Current and Proposed Regulations of Bassinets

Insight

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Have you ever wondered which type of children's product has the longest history? As far as children's sleeping products are concerned, the bassinet—first developed in Europe in the 17th century—is probably the most time-honored staple. As with many types of baby sleeping devices, bassinets have historically been reused multiple times with multiple children. This can lead to a single bassinet being used for decades, during which time safety features and standards may have been developed that render the product obsolete. The extended use of these products has led to various risks associated with bassinets, including fall hazards, choking or entanglement hazards, suffocation hazards, and risk of injury due to the product tipping.

To address many of these concerns, the U.S. Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) in 2008, which requires mandatory federal standards for over a dozen durable juvenile products. Specifically, Section 104 of the CPSIA gives the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) authority to promulgate mandatory safety standards for durable infant and toddler products. Pursuant to Section 104, the CPSC passed a regulation requiring mandatory consumer product safety standards for bassinets in 2013. See, 16 C.F.R. § 1218, et seq. This regulation and accompanying standard applies to all bassinets manufactured or imported into the U.S. on or after April 23, 2014, and is derived and incorporated from the ASTM F2194-13 voluntary standard. This standard provides consumer product safety specifications covering structural and performance requirements, mandatory test methods, and product marking requirements to promote safe use of bassinets.

For more information on the current and proposed regulations of bassinets in the U.S., including bassinets used for pediatric medical purposes, please continue reading this new article from Stinson Leonard Street's Children's Products Group. You may also download a PDF of the article. This is the second in a series of articles Stinson Leonard Street's Children's Products Group will distribute this month regarding baby sleeping devices. Please stay tuned for our article on the current and proposed regulations of bedside sleepers next week.

We welcome any comments or questions you may have on these issues.

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