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Q & A: The New Consumer Product Safety Commission Crib Standard and Drop Side Cribs for Private Use

Q. Can I still use my drop side crib?

A. Yes. Let's look at how and why.

Lately there has been a substantial amount of confusion and anxiety regarding drop side cribs and the new Crib standard issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The new Crib standard affects manufacturers, retailers and resellers of cribs. It **DOES NOT** impact private individuals that have cribs in their homes for private use. As stated by the CPSC:

"NOT COVERED BY THE CRIB RULE:

In home care in the child's own home or care by the child's relative

Foster home caring for child 24/7 that is a private residence

Child care arrangement in which volunteers provide care, e.g. during church service"

CPSC Crib Information Center: Coverage of Crib Rule Summary

<http://www.cpsc.gov/info/cribs/cribrules.html>

Also, as stated in the CPSC *Question and Answer Section of the Federal Register 16 CFR Parts 1219, 1220, 1500 et al.* :

"...Nothing in the CPSIA, or in the crib standards, requires consumers to replace their cribs with cribs that comply with the new crib standards. The CPSIA requires actions by those who sell, lease or otherwise distribute cribs in commerce..."

A drop side crib can still be used by a consumer in his/her own home, however the sale or resale of a drop side crib is now prohibited by the new standard.

Products America recommends checking your crib, whether it is a drop side or non-drop static side, for missing or broken hardware. Also, verify that your crib is not under recall by checking the CPSC current recall list at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/cribs.aspx> . If your crib is under recall, contact the original manufacturer for the repair/recall solution or remedy.

Products America will continue to service replacement hardware needs once the recall remedy, e.g. immobilization kit, has been ordered and/or received. Please note that not all drop side cribs require an immobilization kit. If your crib is not under recall, an immobilization kit may not be necessary, and attempted application of a non-required immobilization kit may actually create safety issues where there were not any to begin with.

Q. Why are drop side cribs prohibited from commercial manufacturing and sale by the new standard?

A. Around the year 2000, United States crib manufacturers ceased manufacturing in the United States and began importing their cribs to sell to the American public. The motivation: reduced production costs. The cost cutting measures continued and led to the shift from using metal hardware for the moving side to plastic hardware. The result of these decisions has materialized as safety hazards as shown by the current recall failure rate and unfortunate injuries and deaths associated with the imported units. In contrast, metal moving side hardware manufactured in the USA had been used since WWII without incident or hardware related recall according to the CPSC Recall list for cribs. The drastic increase in recalls since the year 2007 moved the CPSC to make these prohibitions mandatory in the new crib rule.

If your crib is not under recall, or you have received/installed a recall solution for your crib, call Products America at 800.205.9642 or 800.772.1041 for any replacement hardware needs or questions you may have.

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