



Designation: F2598 – 22

Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Sealed Storage Chests such as Cedar Chests, Hope Chests, Blanket Chests, Keepsake Chests¹

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INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification addresses chest accidents that have been identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Products commonly referred to as cedar chests, hope chests, blanket chests, and keepsake chests have been in use for well over a century. A design characteristic of these products involves the necessity of a tight lid closure to create a sealed storage space for the prevention of insect infestation and dust or dirt contamination.

Many of these products were originally equipped with locks or latching mechanisms that automatically engage when the lid is closed. These locks or latching mechanisms can only be released from outside the product. Children playing in these original products can be inadvertently trapped and suffocate.

A CPSC Product Recall was issued as early as 1996 for products involving a major historical product brand. This recall involved modifying the locking/latching mechanisms to prevent automatic engagement when the lid is closed. This recall continues, and has expanded to include other brands that utilized similar locks or latches, as well as the risk of child entrapment resulting from unexpected lid closure.

This consumer safety specification attempts to minimize the following: (1) possible entrapment, suffocation, and strangulation hazards associated with sudden lid closing or dropping and (2) possible crushing, pinching, and laceration hazards associated with folding mechanisms, hinges, and lid supports.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification covers the performance requirements and test methods to ensure the safety of chests.

1.2 This consumer safety specification is intended to minimize the incidents and injuries to children resulting from normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse or abuse of these chests.

1.3 This consumer safety specification applies to products commonly known as cedar chests, hope chests, blanket chests, and keepsake chests, or other similar closed rigid boxes designed and marketed as sealed storage containers for clothes, blankets, linens, keepsake or other household items. Products subject to these requirements are:

1.3.1 Those with a single volume of 1.1 ft³ (0.031 m³) or more measured with all removable shelves or compartments removed from the product, and

1.3.2 Those intended to create a tightly sealed storage space when the lid is closed for purposes such as the prevention of insect infestation and dust or dirt contamination.

1.4 No chest produced after the approval date of this consumer safety specification shall, either by label or other means, indicate compliance with this specification unless it conforms to all requirements contained herein.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.6 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 5, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and*

¹ This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.42 on Furniture Safety.

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