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Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Sling Carriers¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2907; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification addresses incidents associated with sling carriers as identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). In response to incident data compiled by the CPSC, this specification attempts to minimize the following hazards: fall hazards, suffocation hazards, and deficiency of consumer education regarding product use. This specification is intended to cover normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse or abuse of the product(s).

This specification is written within the current state-of-the-art of sling carrier technology and will be updated whenever substantive information becomes available that necessitates additional requirements or justifies the revision of existing requirements.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification establishes performance requirements, test methods and marking requirements to promote safe use of sling carriers.

1.2 This consumer safety specification is intended to minimize the risk of injury to an occupant from the normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse of products.

1.3 For purposes of definition, a sling carrier is a product of fabric or sewn fabric construction, which is designed to contain up to two (2) children in an upright or reclined position while being supported by the caregiver's torso. Sling carriers are normally used from full-term birth to 35 lb (15.9 kg) unless the manufacturer indicates that a higher weight limit is allowed.

NOTE 1—Slings consist of a variety of unstructured designs ranging from a hammock-shaped product suspended on the caregiver's upper torso to a long length of material wrapped around the caregiver's body.

1.4 The sling carrier is normally "worn" by the caregiver, and thus the child is supported from one or both shoulders of the caregiver. These products are worn on the front, hip or back of the caregiver, with the child either facing towards or away from the caregiver or reclined on the front only of the caregiver.

1.5 No sling carrier produced after the approval date of this consumer safety specification shall, either by label or other

means, indicate compliance with the specification unless it complies with all of the requirements contained herein.

1.6 This consumer safety specification is not intended to address incidents and injuries resulting from the interaction of other persons or objects with the caregiver and child while the sling carrier is in use.

1.7 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.

1.8 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 7, 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 environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.9 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D3359 Test Methods for Rating Adhesion by Tape Test

¹ This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.21 on Infant Carriers, Bouncers and Baby Swings.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

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2.2 Federal Regulations:³

16 CFR 1303 Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Product Bearing Lead-Containing Paint

16 CFR 1500.3(c)(6)(vi) Definition of “Flammable Solid”

16 CFR 1500.48 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Point in Toys or Other Articles Intended for Use By Children Under Eight Years of Age

16 CFR 1500.49 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Metal or Glass Edge in Toys or Other Articles Intended for Use By Children Under Eight Years of Age

16 CFR 1501 Method for Identifying Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under Three Years of Age Which Present Choking, Aspiration or Ingestion Hazards Because of Small Parts

16 CFR 1610 Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles

2.3 ANSI Standards:⁴

ANSI Z535.1 Safety Colors

ANSI Z535.4 Product Safety Signs and Labels

ANSI Z535.6 Product Safety Information in Product Manuals, Instructions, and Other Collateral Materials

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 attachment system, n—fastenings, straps, hoops, buckles, or similar parts which are fitted to the sling carrier for the purpose of securing the article to the caregiver’s torso.

3.1.2 conspicuous, adj—visible when the product is in the manufacturer’s recommended carrying position to a caregiver who is placing the occupant in the sling carrier or when the caregiver places the product on his or her body.

3.1.3 dynamic load, n—application of impulsive force through free fall of a weight.

3.1.4 fabric, n—any woven, knit, coated, laminated, extruded, or calendered flexible material that is intended to be sewn, welded, heat sealed, or glued together as an assembly.

3.1.5 full term infant, n—a baby born 38+ weeks after conception.

3.1.6 manufacturer’s recommended carrying position(s), n—any carrying position that is presented as a normal, allowable, or acceptable configuration for use of the product by the manufacturer in any descriptive or instructional literature.

3.1.6.1 Discussion—This specifically excludes positions that the manufacturer shows in a like manner in its literature to be unacceptable, unsafe, or not recommended.

3.1.7 non-paper label, n—any label material (such as plastic or metal) that either will not tear without the aid of tools or tears, leaving a sharply defined edge.

3.1.8 occupant, n—individual who is placed or carried in the sling carrier in one of the manufacturer’s recommended carrying positions in accordance with 1.4.

3.1.9 paper label, n—any label material which tears without the aid of tools and leaves a fibrous edge.

3.1.10 reclined, n—any position other than upright.

3.1.11 restraint system, n—a means of securing the occupant in any of manufacturer’s recommended carrying positions.

3.1.12 ring sling, n—a sling carrier constructed of a long, rectangular, oblong, or similarly shaped piece of fabric with two rings (usually either nylon or metal) attached to one end.

3.1.12.1 Discussion—The end of the fabric without rings is threaded through and between rings to make a pouch for the baby and a tail of fabric. The rings bear the weight of the baby in the sling, and the caregiver can adjust the sling through the rings.

3.1.13 seam, n—a place where fabric components are joined, by means such as sewing, welding, heat sealing, or gluing.

3.1.14 static load, n—vertically downward load applied by weights or other means.

3.1.15 substantially similar carrying position, n—carrying positions where the sling fabric orientation does not vary regardless of the direction the baby is facing relative to the wearer, or regardless of the positioning of the product to the wearer.

3.1.16 support area(s), n—the area(s) in the sling carrier where the occupant’s weight rests in the product.

4. Calibration and Standardization

4.1 The product shall be completely assembled in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

4.2 No testing shall be conducted within 48 h of manufacture.

4.3 The product to be tested shall be at an ambient temperature of 73°F ± 9°F (23°C ± 5°C) for at least one hour before testing. All testing shall be conducted in this temperature range.

4.4 All testing required by this consumer safety specification shall be conducted on the same unit in the order presented in this specification, except where directly indicated.

5. General Requirements

5.1 Laundering—The sling shall be washed and dried twice in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Any resulting shrinkage shall not prevent any removable parts from being refitted without damaging the seams of the fabric and shall not impair the performance and use of the article. *This test will be the first test conducted on the fabric.*

5.2 Hazardous Sharp Points or Edges—There shall be no sharp points or edges as defined by 16 CFR 1500.48 and 16 CFR 1500.49 before and after testing.

5.3 Small Parts—There shall be no small parts as defined by 16 CFR 1501 before testing or liberated as a result of testing to this specification.

5.4 Lead in Paint—The paint or surface coating on the product shall comply with 16 CFR 1303.

³ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.