



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

DeWane Ray
Deputy Executive Director

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February 27, 2019

Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors, and Retailers of Clothing Storage Units

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to urge you to make certain that the clothing storage units you manufacture, import, distribute, or sell in the United States comply with the applicable current voluntary safety standards, including all referenced standards and requirements contained in the latest revision of ASTM F2057-17, *Safety Specification for Clothing Storage Units*.¹ The ASTM standard, which can be purchased from ASTM International² was designed to reduce the serious risk of dangerous tip-over events.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an independent federal regulatory agency responsible for protecting consumers from unreasonable risks of injury and death from consumer products. CPSC received numerous reports of child fatalities that occurred between 2000 and 2017, associated with clothing storage unit tip overs. We believe that many of these deaths could have been prevented if the clothing storage units complied with the current ASTM F2057-17 standard.

Children face an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death from clothing storage units that fall within the scope of the ASTM F2057-17 standard but do not meet its requirements. Accordingly, the CPSC's Office of Compliance and Field Operations staff will regard such products as having a defect which could present a substantial product hazard under Section 15(a) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(a). Should we encounter such products, we shall initiate an investigation and will seek the corrective action we believe is appropriate.

Consequently, you should not manufacture, import, distribute, or sell clothing storage units that are within the scope of the ASTM F2057 standard but do not comply with its requirements. I urge you to review your product line immediately and ensure that all clothing storage units that you manufacture, import, distribute, or sell in the United States comply with ASTM F2057-17 standard where applicable.


¹ Published on October 1, 2017

² <https://www.astm.org/Standards/F2057.htm>

Section 15(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b), requires every manufacturer, importer, distributor, and retailer of consumer products to report immediately to the Commission when the firm obtains information which reasonably supports the conclusion that such product distributed in commerce contains a defect which could create a substantial product hazard or that such product creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. The failure to report information required by section 15(b) is a prohibited act under section 19 of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2068(a)(4). The CPSA at 15 U.S.C. § 2069 provides for imposition of civil penalties for knowingly failing to report the required information. Criminal penalties may also be imposed for knowing and willful violations of the CPSA.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, you may contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DeWane Ray", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

DeWane Ray