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CONTENTS

- ▶ China Enforces 100% Supervised Testing Policy on Apparel Imports 1
- ▶ CPSC Announces New Standards and Testing Requirements for Infant Cribs 2

Your TÜV SÜD softlines contacts worldwide

Asia Pacific

Cambodia	Indonesia	+65 6773 9751
Malaysia	Philippines	softlines@tuev-sued.com
Singapore	Thailand	
Vietnam		

Hong Kong	Mainland	+86 21 6141 0123
Taiwan	China	softlines@tuv-sud.cn

Bangladesh	India	+91 22 3082 9797
Sri Lanka		softlines@tuv-sud.in

Korea		+82 2 3215 1100
		sun.ahn@tuv-sud.kr

NAFTA region		+1 734 455 4841 (ext. 7492)
		softlines@tuev-sued.com

Europe, Middle East & Africa

Germany		+49 151 5843 0950
		softlines@tuev-sued.com

Italy		+39 051 2987 411
		ps.teesile@tuv.it

Spain		+34 93 281 0695
Portugal		florian.hilt@tuev-sued.es

Turkey		+90 212 347 9810
		frat.capkin@tuv-sud.com.tr

UK		+44 20 8363 8002
		theva@tuvps.co.uk

Rest of the world		+65 6773 9751
		softlines@tuev-sued.com

For more information, visit us at
www.tuev-sued.com/softlines



China Enforces 100% Supervised Testing Policy on Apparel Imports



The People's Republic of China has announced that as of January 2011, all textile and apparel imports must be tested according to the country's National Safety Regulation GB 18401 standard, "National Safety Technical Code for Textile Products". The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has directed the immediate enforcement of a "100% supervised testing" requirement on over 300 different textile and apparel products that are imported into the country.

The AQSIQ announcement means that all imported apparel products intended for domestic use will be tested for (among others) formaldehyde content, acidity, colour fastness, perspiration fastness, washing fastness and fibre content. The testing will be supervised by the country's provincial Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureaus (CIQs), which are the provincial agencies responsible for ensuring the quality of imported and exported goods in and out of the country. However, the supervised testing policy does not apply to products exported out of China.

The AQSIQ now also requires imported textile products to have labels that provide "instructions for use" according to the GB 5296.4 labelling standard. Among other things, the labels must include the specifications of the product, its fibre content and composition, the quality standard code and classification as well as instructions for caring for the item.

HOW TÜV SÜD CAN HELP

The AQSIQ has made it clear that it is serious about enforcing the "100% supervised testing" policy. It is stated that apparel products already sold to consumers which do not meet the new standards must be recalled immediately, and that importers or distributors that fail to meet the new labelling requirement may be penalised according to current regulations.

Businesses are therefore advised to contact a TÜV SÜD expert immediately to ensure that their products comply to the new requirements of the AQSIQ. Our team of technical specialists can help smoothen your company's transition to meet AQSIQ's new regulations. ■

CPSC Announces New Cribs Standards and Accreditation Requirements for Testing Infant Cribs



The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has consolidated all crib-related safety and testing requirements¹ under the new standards of 16 CFR 1219 (for full-size cribs) and 16 CFR 1220 (for non-full size cribs).

The new standards will be effected on 28 June 2011 and will apply to cribs defined as:

- **Full-size cribs:** a crib designed to provide sleeping accommodations for an infant with specific interior dimensions of $28 \pm 5/8$ inches (71 ± 1.6 centimeters) in width and $52 \frac{3}{8} \pm 5/8$ inches (133 ± 1.6 centimeters) in length.
- **Non-full size cribs:** includes oversized, specialty, undersized, and portable cribs, but does not include any product with mesh/net/screen siding, non-rigidly constructed cribs, cradles, car beds, baby baskets, bassinets, or play yards.

The new crib standards apply to all manufacturers or importers involved in the trade of full-size and non-full size cribs. They also apply to businesses that use cribs on their premises such as child care facilities, family child care homes and places of public accommodation, which must replace their non-compliant cribs by 28 December 2012.

Along with this announcement, the CPSC also published a notice to revoke the old 16 CFR 1508 and 1509 standards² while releasing new accreditation requirements for third party testing bodies. The publication of the new standards will also lift the stay of enforcement on CPSIA's third party testing requirements and General Conformity Certificate (GCA) requirements for related children's products.

In order to comply to the rule, all infant cribs manufactured on or after 28 June 2011 have to be tested by a CPSC-accredited third

party laboratory according to the procedures specified in 16 CFR 1219 and 1220. After 28 June 2011, manufacturers or importers of cribs will also need to provide a General Conformity Certificate to show that their products meet the CPSC's requirements.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES

According to Inez Tenenbaum, Chairman of the CPSC, the CPSC's new crib standards are now among the strongest standards in the world³. Once the new standards are effective, for example, drop-side cribs will be prohibited in the US. This is because in a study of crib fatalities between 2007 and 2010, the CPSC found that more than 50% of the 35 reported fatalities due to entrapments were related to drop-side failures.

Nonetheless, the announcement also presents an opportunity to manufacturers and businesses that are able to supply cribs that comply to the new, stricter standards. Staff at the CPSC estimated that child care facilities and places of public accommodation in the U.S. will need approximately 935,000 new cribs to replace their old ones, creating nearly USD\$467 million worth of demand in total. The prohibition of drop-side cribs will also cause a shortage of cribs for new parents and may drive up demand for CPSC-compliant cribs even further.

Manufacturers can take advantage of this projected demand by getting their products tested and certified as soon as possible. With our vast experience and industry knowledge, TÜV SÜD can provide you with the technical knowledge and information you need to gain crucial market share in this competitive industry. ■

¹ Read the rule in full at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-32178.pdf>

² See the revocation notice at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-32179.pdf>

³ Read the Chairman's statement in full at <http://www.cpsc.gov/pr/tenenbaum12152010.pdf>

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