



Proactive Crib Safety Reduces Risk and is Good Business

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On January 19, 2010 the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recalled 635,000 baby cribs www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10114.html; this is in addition to the 2.1 million cribs they recalled in November, 2009 www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10046.html. While the recall announcements confront a serious safety risk involving cribs sold at retail, they send a strong message about the importance of crib safety to the hospitality industry.

Over the past two years, there have been over 7 million cribs recalled in the U.S. These recalls span over a dozen brands and are in response to over 65 entrapment injuries and over 10 deaths.

It is important for hoteliers to understand the safety risks and opportunities in the realm of hotel cribs as well as what to look for when evaluating and purchasing cribs for their properties. Hotel cribs need to be safer and stronger than residential cribs because of the strenuous usage to which they are subjected. The following are considerations for hotel properties regarding crib purchase and safety:

1. **CRIB INVENTORY**

Take an inventory of the cribs in your property(ies).

- a. What brand(s) of cribs do you have and what is their safety record?
- b. How old are they and what condition are they in?
- c. Have they been part of a safety recall, past or current? Recall information can be found at www.cpsc.gov.

2. **COMMERCIAL CRIB STANDARDS**

Do the cribs comply with the new ASTM F2710-08 commercial crib Standard? (See information on Page 2 regarding this Standard.)

3. **CRIB PURCHASE / EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS**

- a. Slats no more than 2-3/8" apart (so an infant's head can't get trapped).
- b. No loose, missing or cracked slats.
- c. No missing parts.
- d. Preferably use cribs without drop sides. If cribs have drop sides, make sure they can lock and not be released by baby.
- e. Joints and parts should fit tightly. If wood, must be smooth and free of splinters.
- f. If painted, all surfaces should be covered with lead-free paint that isn't chipped or peeling.
- g. No cutouts in headboard or footboard.
- h. No loose screws or bolts.
- i. Corner posts should be flush with the end panels.
- j. The mattress should be the same size as the crib so there are no gaps to trap arms, body, or legs. If you can fit 2 fingers between the mattress and the side of the crib, the crib should not be used.

4. **LIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

Determine the business practice and fiscal strength of your crib manufacturer / supplier.

- a. Are they fiscally strong?
- b. Are they fully insured with proper limits?
- c. Have there been liability claims against the manufacturer / supplier?

5. **PROMOTE GOOD SAFETY STANDARDS**

Inspect your cribs regularly. Once you establish that your cribs meet stringent safety standards, promote these standards to your guests. Consider displaying information for guests that tells of your proactive safety stance. Keep in mind that travelers blog about their concerns regarding hotel cribs.

SUMMARY OF COMMERCIAL CRIB STANDARD ASTM F2710-08

1) **STATIC LOAD TEST**

- a) Crib must withstand a total of 475 lbs. inside (full size crib)
- b) Crib must withstand a total of 298 lbs. inside (typical non-full size crib)

2) **THRESHOLD TEST**

The crib must be able to withstand movement while assembled and loaded simulating use and movement in the commercial environment, like in and out of elevators and/or exterior doorways.

- a) Crib wheels travel over 1" wide x 1.25" deep "threshold" with 180 lb. load in crib.
- b) Movement must be repeated 500 times (250 times in one direction and 250 times in the return direction).
- c) Crib must have no visible signs of damage.



3) **DROP SIDE TEST**

This test is for only a crib that has a drop side rail. It is meant to simulate excessive use of the drop side rail in the commercial environment. The crib is held in place to prevent movement.

- a) 30 lb. weight is attached to the center of the top of the drop side rail.
- b) Side rail is unlatched and released, dropping with 30 lb. weight attached. This is repeated 500 times.
- c) Crib must have no visible signs of damage.

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