

Video Script for Safety Tips for Consumer Product Suppliers: Product Instability or Tip-Overs

Video Script
<p>Safety Tips for Consumer Product Suppliers</p> <p>Product Instability or Tip-Overs</p>
<p>Sylvia: Hello, My name is Sylvia Chen and I'm here to talk about the importance of designing safe products for use by consumers. A product designed with safety in mind serves consumers best and gives them peace of mind by ensuring that the product they use is not harmful. On the contrary, poor design is problematic because it could lead to the production of defective and hazardous products. The consequences of manufacturing a defective product are serious, because they could create a "substantial product hazard" or an "unreasonable risk" of serious injury or death.</p>
<p>This video is one in our series dedicated to hazards that are emerging or hidden, and thus, less understood. During this presentation, we will focus on the hazards of unstable furniture products, or tip-overs. We'll discuss the hazard, the current voluntary standard, and CPSC staff's findings regarding tip-overs.</p>
<p>In the U.S., unstable and unsecured TVs and large pieces of furniture kill a child every two weeks, on average. These tip-over incidents are easily preventable.</p> <p>Many children involved in deaths are only 2 or 2.5 years old; and usually these tip-overs happen in the bedroom, as children climb on dressers not anchored to the wall with heavy televisions on top.</p> <p>An estimated 17,300 children were treated annually in U.S. hospitals emergency departments for product instability or tip-over injuries related to all furniture tip-overs from 2013 to 2015. There were 489 reported fatalities between 2000 and 2015. This is a very serious hidden hazard in our homes.</p>
<p>Currently, there is no U.S. federal technical regulation requiring furniture stability. There are voluntary standards in the U.S. to protect against furniture tip over hazards.</p>
<p>In the last few years, there have been several unstable furniture recalls with a tip-over hazard. For example, one company voluntarily recalled more than 29 million chest and dressers due to a serious tip-over hazard. Consumers were urged to anchor chests and dressers to the wall or return them to the store for a refund.</p>
<p>Product stability is not an issue only in the United States. It is a global concern. For this reason, CPSC is collaborating with jurisdictions around the world to increase consumer and industry awareness.</p>
<p>In the United States, most retailers follow the ASTM International voluntary standards for clothing storage units to prevent instability issues and tip-overs.</p>

Clothing storage units can include: dressers, chest of drawers, and armoires.

ASTM F2057-14 specifies stability and labeling requirements. There are two test procedures in the standard to address stability. Section 7.1 Stability of Unloaded Unit and Section 7.2 Stability with Load. For section 7.1 all drawers of an empty unit are opened to the “out-stop” or, in the absence of an out-stop, opened to 2/3 or 66 percent of its operational sliding length (OSL) at the same time. The unit shall not tip over during the test. Note for both section 7.1 and 7.2 the unit should be tested without the tip-over restraint.

ASTM F2057-14, Section 7.2 *Stability with Load* contains the test method for an empty dresser. With all drawers closed, one drawer is opened to the “out-stop” or, in the absence of an out-stop, is opened to 2/3 or 66 percent of its operational sliding length (OSL). Next a 50-lb. (22.7kg) weight test fixture is gradually placed over the front of the open drawer. The tester determines whether the dresser starts to tip over under the weight of the test fixture. Next, the tester will remove the test weight and close the open drawer and repeat until all drawers have been tested.

The empty dresser shall not tip over when a 50-lb. (about 22.7kg) weight is hung from each open drawer at full extension, with only one drawer open at a time.

There is also ASTM F3096-14 which states requirements for tip-restraint devices (TDRs). The standard assesses the strength of the tip-over restraint to withstand a pull force of 50 lbs. (22.7 kg).

Sylvia: We hope you found this video informative. When you design a product, always have safety in mind, especially when the product is intended for use by children or where children may be present. Design a product as if you or your child is going to use it.

Thank you. Sylvia Chen from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/zh-CN/Business--Manufacturing/Business-Education/>

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