

## [Products Liability Law Daily Wrap Up, CPSC NEWS—HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS—Child fatality prompts recall of 29M IKEA chests/dressers posing serious tip-over hazard, \(Jun. 28, 2016\)](#)

Products Liability Law Daily Wrap Up

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By Pamela C. Maloney, J.D.

IKEA North America, of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, has recalled about 8 million MALM chests and dressers and 21 million children's and adult chests and dressers in the United States (plus an additional 6.6 million that were sold in Canada) because these chests and dressers that do not comply with the performance requirements of the U.S. voluntary industry standard (ASTM F2057-14). Specifically, these chests and dressers are unstable if they are not properly anchored to the wall, posing a serious tip-over and entrapment hazard that can result in death or injuries to children. The recall follows reports of additional tip-over incidents, including a February 2016 incident in which a 22-month-old boy from Apple Valley, Minn. died when a MALM 6-drawer chest fell on top of him (*CPSC Recall Notice*, No. 16-204, June 28, 2016).

**Incidents and injuries/prior recall.** On July 22, 2015, CPSC and IKEA announced a [repair program](#) for the chests and dressers that included a free wall-anchoring repair kit for the MALM chests and dressers and other IKEA chests and dressers. Two tragic fatalities involving MALM chests and dressers occurred prior to the announcement of the repair program: (1) in February 2014, a 2-year-old boy from West Chester, Pa. died after a 6-drawer MALM chest tipped over and fatally pinned him against his bed, and (2) in June 2014, a 23-month-old boy from Snohomish, Wash. died after he became trapped beneath a 3-drawer MALM chest that tipped over. The most recent incident occurred after the July 2015 repair program announcement.

None of the chests or dressers in the above-listed incidents had been anchored to the wall. In addition to the three deaths, IKEA received reports of 41 tip-over incidents involving the MALM chests and dressers, resulting in 17 injuries to children between the ages of 19 months and 10 years old.

IKEA also received 41 reports of tip-overs involving chests and dressers other than MALMs, resulting in the deaths of three children and 19 injuries to children:

- In July 1989, a 20-month-old girl from Mt. Vernon, Va. died after an unanchored GUTE 4-drawer chest tipped over and pinned her against the footboard of a youth bed.
- In March 2002, a 2 1/2-year-old boy from Cranford, N.J. died after an unanchored RAKKE 5-drawer chest tipped over and fatally pinned him to the floor.
- In October 2007, a 3-year-old girl from Chula Vista, Calif. died after a KURS 3-drawer chest tipped over and fatally pinned her to the floor. It is unknown as to whether the dresser was anchored or not.

According to CPSC data, a child dies every two weeks and a child is injured every 24 minutes in the U.S. from furniture or TVs tipping over.

**Product description.** The 29 million units of recalled chests and dressers include: MALM 3-drawer, 4-drawer, 5-drawer and three 6-drawer models and other children's and adult chests and dressers. The recalled children's chests and dressers are taller than 23.5 inches and adult chests and dressers are taller than 29.5 inches. All chests and dressers are constructed of particleboard or fiberboard and are white, birch (veneer), medium brown, black-brown, white stained oak (veneer), oak (veneer), pink, turquoise, grey, grey-turquoise, lilac, green, brown stained ash (veneer), and black. A 5-digit supplier number, 4-digit date stamp, IKEA logo, country of origin and "MALM" are printed on the underside of the top panel or inside the side panel. Since 1996, IKEA chests and dressers have been labeled to identify IKEA, the model name and the manufacturing date. A complete list of recalled chests and dressers, along with the sold dates and measurements is available at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). In

addition, most of the non-MALM chests and dressers included in this recall are listed on the IKEA website at [www.IKEA-USA.com/recallchestsanddressers](http://www.IKEA-USA.com/recallchestsanddressers).

**Remedy.** Consumers should stop using any recalled chest and dresser that is not properly anchored to the wall immediately and place it into an area which children cannot access. Contact IKEA for a choice between two options: refund or a free wall-anchoring repair kit. Consumers are entitled to a full refund for chests and dressers manufactured between January 2002 and June 2016. Consumers with chests and dressers manufactured prior to January 2002 will be eligible for a partial store credit. In addition, consumers can order a free wall-anchoring repair kit. Consumers can install the kit themselves or IKEA will provide a one-time, free in-home installation service, upon request. Consumers can reorder the kits throughout the life of their chest and dresser. To receive a refund or free wall-anchoring kit for IKEA chests and dressers listed above, visit an IKEA retail store, go to [www.IKEA-USA.com/recallchestsanddressers](http://www.IKEA-USA.com/recallchestsanddressers) or call 866-856-4532 anytime.

CPSC and IKEA are urging consumers to inspect their recalled IKEA chests and dressers to ensure that they are properly anchored to the wall. Chests and dressers should be properly anchored to the wall regardless of whether they meet the ASTM standard. Consumers should move any unanchored chests and dressers into storage or other areas where they cannot be accessed by children until the chests and dressers are properly anchored to the wall or removed from the home.

**CPSC response.** CPSC Chairman Elliot F. Kaye [announced](#) that IKEA has worked cooperatively with the CPSC on this comprehensive and necessary recall and that the company had made an important commitment to the agency and the American public to sell in the United States only dressers that comply with the most up-to-date performance standards for furniture stability. Kaye added, "I fully expect all furniture companies to do the same. Those failing to do so should pay close attention to the details of this recall, as they should expect to be hearing from us. CPSC will seek recalls of other brands that pose an unreasonable tip-over risk to innocent children."

Kaye went on to note that this recall announcement was not the end of the Commission's work on this hazard, nor should it be for the furniture industry. According to Kaye, one of CPSC's top engineers was in Sweden recently to meet with the engineers at IKEA's headquarters to discuss new and innovative ways to protect children from furniture tipping over. He added that IKEA had several promising ideas to prevent injuries and he commended IKEA on the company's willingness to work on creative solutions.

To further assist consumers in responding to this recall, CPSC prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that provides all necessary information to identified affected chests and dressers and to obtain a refund, a replacement, or an anchor kit.

**Customer contact.** For more information, customers may contact IKEA toll-free at 866-856-4532 anytime or online at [www.IKEA-USA.com/recallchestsanddressers](http://www.IKEA-USA.com/recallchestsanddressers) or [www.IKEA-USA.com](http://www.IKEA-USA.com) and click on Product Recall for more information on how to receive a refund or free wall-anchoring repair kit.

Companies: IKEA North America

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