

[Products Liability Law Daily Wrap Up, CPSC NEWS—BABY PRODUCTS— New infant sling safety standard takes effect, \(Feb. 2, 2018\)](#)

Products Liability Law Daily Wrap Up

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A new mandatory standard intended to improve the safety of infant sling carriers and prevent deaths and injuries to young children is now in effect. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) approved the standard in January 2017 [see *Products Liability Law Daily's* January 30, 2017 [analysis](#)], and it applies to any infant sling carrier manufactured or imported after January 30, 2018 ([CPSC Press Release](#), February 1, 2018).

Infant sling carriers are worn by parents or caregivers and are designed to carry infants and toddlers between 8 and 35 pounds. Slings can pose suffocation hazards for babies as well as fall hazards for infants and toddlers. Between January 2003 and September 2016, 159 incidents were reported to CPSC involving sling carriers; 17 were fatal and 142 were nonfatal. Of the 142 nonfatal incidents, 67 reports involved an injury to the infant during use of the product. Among the 67 reported nonfatal injuries, 10 involved hospitalizations.

According to the new standard, all infant slings are required to have permanently attached warning labels and come with instructions, such as illustrated diagrams, to show the proper position of a child in the sling. Warning labels must include statements about: the suffocation hazards posed by slings and prevention measures, the hazards of children falling out of slings, and a reminder for caregivers to check the buckles, snaps, rings and other hardware to make sure no parts are broken.

The new standard also requires sling carriers to be able to carry up to three times the manufacturer's maximum recommended weight, be more durable to avoid seam separations, fabric tears, breakage, etc., and be able to keep the child being carried from falling out of the sling during normal use.

CPSC also reminded consumers to observe common sense safety tips when using sling carriers, such as ensuring that an infant's face is not covered and is visible at all times to the sling wearer. Also, if nursing a baby in a sling, the mother should change the baby's position after feeding so the baby's head is facing up and is clear of the sling and the mother's body. Finally, consumers should frequently check the baby in a sling, always making sure nothing is blocking the baby's nose and mouth and the baby's chin is away from its chest.

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