

## [Products Liability Law Daily Wrap Up, CPSC NEWS—HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS—CPSC urges vacation rental businesses to disable home elevators immediately, \(Jul. 23, 2021\)](#)

Products Liability Law Daily Wrap Up

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By WK Editorial Staff

The agency's request follows the death of another young child in a residential elevator.

In a letter to vacation rental platforms, AirBnB, Vrbo, and others, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Acting Chairman Robert Adler urged the companies to take steps now to protect children from injury or death in residential elevators. The letter marks the first time the agency has publicly called on vacation rental companies to take immediate action (*CPSC News Release*, [No. 21-166](#), July 20, 2021).

"The agency is taking steps with the manufacturers, but we need the businesses that facilitate vacation rentals to join us," said Adler. "These injuries and deaths are horrific, and we need property owners and rental agencies to disable elevators immediately until they have been inspected."

The letter asked the companies to: (1) notify all renters immediately about the potential hazard of residential elevators via email, or in a warning box on their reservation or booking pages; (2) immediately require all members or "hosts" using the platforms to lock outer access doors or otherwise disable the elevators in their properties, unless and until those members provide proof of an inspection certifying that no hazardous gap exists; and (3) require elevator inspections of any business posting a listing going forward.

In a news release, CPSC explained that residential elevators pose a hidden and deadly hazard: small children can be crushed to death in a gap that may exist between the doors. If the gap between any exterior (i.e., hoistway) door and the farthest point of the inner door (which is often an accordion door) is too deep, a child can enter and close the hoistway door without opening the interior car door, and become entrapped between the two doors, resulting in serious injuries or death when the elevator car moves. Children, from ages two through 12, have been crushed to death in this gap, suffering multiple skull fractures, fractured vertebrae, and traumatic asphyxia. Other children have suffered devastating and lifelong injuries. Last week, a seven-year-old child was reported to have tragically died in a vacation home elevator in North Carolina.

Earlier this month, the agency filed an administrative complaint against home elevator manufacturer thyssenkrupp Access Corp., alleging that defects in the company's residential elevators pose a significant hazard, particularly to children [see *Products Liability Law Daily's* [July 19, 2021](#)].

The agency also has worked with manufacturers to recall home elevators:

- Otis Elevator Co., December 17, 2020, [Recall No. 21-056](#), entrapment hazard;
- Cambridge Elevating, March 27, 2019, [Recall No. 19-091](#), fall hazard;
- Waupaca Elevator Co., October 25, 2018, [Recall No. 19-022](#), injury hazard;
- Porta Inc., August 3, 2016, [Recall No. 16-238](#), fall hazard;
- Coastal Carolina Elevators LLC, March 19, 2015, [Recall No. 15-102](#), crushing hazard; and
- ThyssenKrupp Access Manufacturing LLC, September 20, 2012, [Recall No. 12-750](#), fall hazard.

Other safety information is available on the agency's [website](#). CPSC will continue its investigation into the safety of residential elevators, and advises consumers to report any safety incident involving residential elevators at [www.SaferProducts.gov](http://www.SaferProducts.gov).

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