



# Standard Safety Specification for Cautionary Labeling of Inflatable Air Mattresses<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

Since 2002 (until Jan. 1, 2008), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received reports of 16 tragic deaths, mostly infants younger than 8 months of age, who were placed to sleep on air mattresses. Eleven suffocated in a facedown position on an air mattress, and five died as a result of suffocation after falling into gaps between the mattress and bed frame or mattress and adjacent furniture or wall.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This safety specification covers safety requirements aimed at providing cautionary labeling information for safer use of inflatable air mattresses (also known as “air beds,” collectively referred to herein as “inflatable air mattresses”). The intent of this safety specification is to reduce child (infant) injuries and fatalities caused by suffocation on inflatable air mattresses.

1.2 This safety specification covers all size inflatable air mattresses—including but not limited to full, queen, king, and twin sizes.

1.3 This safety specification does not cover inflatable air mattresses designed specifically for use in Durable Infant Products.

1.4 This safety specification is intended to reduce entrapment hazards to children and risk of suffocation to infants up to and including age 15 months.

1.5 This safety specification includes inflatable air mattresses intended for recreational, camping, and other indoor and outdoor uses.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.63 on Inflatable Air Mattresses.

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### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ANSI Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

[ANSI Z535.4 Standard for Product Safety Signs and Labels](#)  
[ANSI Z535.6 Product Safety Information in Product Manuals, Instructions, and Other Collateral Materials](#)

### 3. Safety Requirements

3.1 Soft and hard outer retail packaging or storage container, or both, of the product shall, on the principal display panel, include all of the cautionary information in accordance with 5.2. Each mattress shall have a permanent label or sewed-on tag located in a conspicuous location stating all of the cautionary information in accordance with 5.2.

3.2 On product labels with cautionary information shall be in contrasting color(s) to the background, permanent, and conspicuous.

3.3 On product labels shall use ANSI Z535.4 as a guide with respect to legibility, type of lettering, color, and symbol. A sample label is shown in Fig. 1.

3.4 The cautionary information may also be enhanced by different text or graphics.

### 4. Safety Instructions

4.1 ANSI Z535.6 shall be used as a guide with respect to the format and location of this information.

4.2 Instruction manuals provided with each inflatable air mattress shall include all of the following cautionary information:

<sup>2</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.



FIG. 1 Packaging and Mattress Label (1 in. = 2.54 cm)

4.2.1 Infants have suffocated on inflatable mattresses. Never place infant aged birth to 15 months to sleep on this inflatable air mattress/air bed. Infants can suffocate on an underinflated or deflated mattress, on bedding, by co-sleeping with another person, and by entrapment between the mattress and bed frame or between the mattress and a vertical surface.

4.2.2 Children can be entrapped between the inflatable mattress and an adjacent vertical surface. Provide at least a shoulder width space between the inflatable mattress/airbed and adjacent vertical surfaces such as walls, dressers, or other objects.

4.2.3 Always keep the inflatable mattress fully inflated when in use.

## 5. Labels

5.1 Each inflatable air mattress shall be labeled with warning statements. The warning statements shall be in contrasting color(s), permanent, such that the warning statements cannot be removed without the use of tools, visible when the product is in the manufacturer’s recommended use position to a person who is inflating the air mattress, and in sans serif style font.

5.2 In warning statements, the safety alert symbol “△” and the word “WARNING” shall not be less than 0.24 in. (6 mm) high. The remainder of the text shall be characters whose upper case shall be at least 0.12 in. (3 mm) high.

5.2.1 “△” WARNING: Risk of Suffocation.

5.3 The warning statements shall clearly convey the following:

5.3.1 Infants have suffocated on inflatable mattresses.

5.3.2 Never place an infant aged birth to 15 months on an inflatable mattress.

5.3.3 When used by children over 15 months old, provide at least a shoulder width space between inflatable mattress and vertical surfaces such as walls, dressers, or other objects to avoid entrapment.

5.3.4 Always keep inflatable mattress fully inflated when in use.

5.3.5 See instructions for additional warnings.

## 6. Keywords

6.1 inflatable; mattress

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