

Limited review of the baby bath aids mandatory safety standard

Overview

The ACCC invites you to have your say on the proposed updates to the mandatory standard for baby bath aids – [Consumer Goods \(Baby Bath Aids\) Safety Standard 2017](#). The mandatory standard first came into effect in 2005 and was last updated in 2017.

The mandatory standard covers requirements for warning statement labelling for baby bath aids and its packaging. The mandatory standard also contains requirements for the permanency of warning statement labels applied to baby bath aids. The mandatory standard applies to baby bath aids which are defined as a device designed to provide support to a baby while the baby is being bathed.

About this review

We are conducting a limited review of the baby bath aids mandatory standard. The purpose of this limited review is to:

- increase compliance options by referencing appropriate voluntary Australian and overseas standards that provide an equivalent or better level of safety
- determine if adding dynamic references is appropriate - so updates to referenced voluntary standards flow through to the mandatory standard.

Significant changes such as altering the scope of the mandatory standard or other major requirements (such as performance measures) are not being considered in this review.

In this consultation, we have outlined voluntary standards that we are seeking views as to whether they could be suitable compliance options in the mandatory standard.

We welcome your feedback on the options listed in this consultation.

You can read more about the reforms to the mandatory standard framework and limited reviews on the [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

How to make a submission

Interested parties are invited to comment on this consultation.

Submissions are due by **Friday 6 March 2026**.

This consultation should take about 20 minutes to complete. You can save your answers and return at any time to complete your submission. You do not need to complete all questions to make a valid submission.

You will be able to provide supporting documentation (if required) at the end of the consultation.

We prefer interested parties respond to the questions using the online survey linked at the bottom of this page.

If you are unable to make your submission through the ACCC Consultation Hub, you can post or email your submission to:

Director
Standards Reform Team
Consumer Product Safety Division
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131 Canberra ACT 2601

Email: ProductSafety.Regulation@accc.gov.au

If you are emailing or posting your submission, please include your name, organisation (if any) and contact details when making a submission.

Our preference is for submissions to be in electronic format (such as MS Word or PDF) that is text searchable and allows a 'copy and paste' function.

Publication of submissions

All submissions will be treated as public documents and published on the ACCC website, consultation.accc.gov.au, in accordance with the [ACCC's Information Policy](#), unless otherwise requested.

Any parties wishing to submit commercial-in-confidence material should clearly mark it as such and submit both a public version and commercial-in-confidence version of their submission, with reasons explaining why it is confidential. More information about the ACCC's treatment of confidential information can be found in the [ACCC's Information Policy](#).

Next steps after consultation

We will review submissions and determine our recommendation to the Minister about updating the mandatory standard.

We may consult with stakeholders again before the mandatory standard is finalised and will publish the outcome of this limited review on the [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

Accessibility

If you have any difficulty accessing any of the information on this page, please refer to our website's accessibility information. Alternatively, contact us by phone on 1300 302 502 or email ProductSafety.Regulation@accc.gov.au

Background information

About the baby bath aids mandatory standard

The mandatory standard for baby bath aids was first introduced in 2005 to address the drowning deaths of infants while using baby bath aids in Australia. It covers requirements for warning statement labelling and the testing of these warning labels to ensure permanency and legibility.

The mandatory standard was last updated in 2017 and references the 2013 version of the voluntary US standard for infant bath seats (ASTM F1967) subclauses 7.3.1, 7.3.3, and 7.3.4. This voluntary US standard was last updated in 2024, but this update did not make any changes to the subclauses currently referenced in the mandatory standard.

Find out more about the mandatory standard on the ACCC Product Safety website [ACCC Product Safety website](#).

Consultation issues

Retain the current mandatory safety standard (maintain the status quo)

If the status quo is maintained, there would be no change to the mandatory standard, and it would continue to reference ASTM F1967-13 subclauses 7.3.1, 7.3.3 and 7.3.4. This voluntary standard has been superseded. Suppliers would be required to test to and ensure the products they supply continue to comply with the current mandatory standard requirements which reference ASTM F1967-13.

Maintaining the status quo would mean that the mandatory standard would not reference other voluntary Australian and overseas standards as compliance options. Businesses will continue to incur additional regulatory and testing costs, and they will not be able to supply products that comply with updated voluntary standards, unless these products are also tested to the particular voluntary standard referenced in the mandatory standard.

Accepting other voluntary standards as compliance options

We have identified voluntary overseas standards that may provide an equivalent level of safety to the mandatory standard. We consider that these could be listed as compliance options in the mandatory standard.

- ASTM F1967-24 - Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Bath Seats — in relation to warning label text and permanency requirements.
 - 5.91, 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.3.3, 7.3.4 – Permanence of warning labels
 - 8.4 – Warning Design for Product
 - 8.5 – Warning statements to be addressed
 - 8.6 – Warning Design for Package
- EN 17022:2018 - Child care articles - Bathing aids - Safety requirements and test methods — in relation to warning label text and permanency requirements.
 - 8.2 – Marking of the product
 - 8.4 – Instructions for use
- EN 17072:2018 - Child care articles - Bath tubs, stands and non-standalone bathing aids - Safety requirements and test methods — in relation to warning label text and permanency requirements.
 - 8.2 – Marking of the product
 - 8.4 – Instructions for use

Where a mandatory standard allows for more than one voluntary standard as a compliance option, suppliers can be required by the mandatory standard to include information on which compliance option(s) the product complies with. This compliance information could be marked on the product itself, the packaging or in information provided with the product.

Allowing mandatory standards to be dynamic

Mandatory standards can reference one or more voluntary standards. Voluntary standards are updated from time-to-time. Ordinarily, a mandatory standard would reference only the version of the voluntary standard that was in place when the reference was introduced into the mandatory standard.

Dynamic referencing means that the mandatory standard references a voluntary standard as it exists from time-to-time. This will allow updates to the referenced voluntary standard to flow through to the mandatory standard, keeping pace with global product safety developments.

We propose allowing a 6-month review period before any updates to a referenced voluntary standard take effect in the mandatory standard. During this time, we will review these updates to ensure they are appropriate.

We can recommend to the Minister to stop an update to a voluntary standard taking effect in the mandatory standard, where necessary.

Transition periods

Appropriate transition periods in the mandatory standard allow for:

- changes arising from this review to take effect
- superseded versions of the referenced standards remaining as compliance options for a specified time.

Transition periods allow businesses to:

- sell existing stock
- make manufacturing and design changes
- undertake testing to ensure compliance with an updated standard.

About you

You can save your responses in this survey and come back anytime to complete it.

Personal information collection notice

The [ACCC](#) will handle personal information collected in this survey in accordance with the [Australian Privacy Principles](#).

If you choose to enter your email address, it will be used to acknowledge receipt of your survey responses, to provide you with a copy of those responses and for the purpose of contacting you in relation to your survey responses. It will not be disclosed without your consent, except where authorised or required by law.

Information about how to access and/or correct your personal information, and how to lodge a complaint in relation to the use or disclosure of your personal information, is set out in our [privacy policy](#) on our website.

1 What is your name?

Name:

2 What is your email address?

This information will not be published. If you enter your email address you will receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response. We'll email you if we need to ask more questions about your submission.

Email:

3 What is your organisation? (if applicable)

Organisation:

4 Do you consent to the ACCC publishing your submission?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, but do not publish my name

You are responsible for ensuring there is no information in your submission that can disclose your identity.

5 Do you agree that the mandatory standard for baby bath aids should be updated?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes — continue with the survey to consider options for updating the mandatory standard.
- ☐ No, maintain the status quo.

If you selected no, please provide reasoning in the text box below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Provide reasoning

Currently referenced voluntary standard

The mandatory standard for baby bath aids (mandatory standard) references the 2013 version of the voluntary ASTM standard for infant bath seats (ASTM F1967). This voluntary standard was updated in 2024.

All questions on this page relate to the 2024 version of the voluntary ASTM standard for infant bath seats (ASTM F1967-24).

6 Do you agree that the mandatory standard should be updated to reference sections 7.3.1, 7.3.3, 7.3.4 of ASTM F1967-24?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

7 Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference ASTM F1967-24 as it is updated from time-to-time (dynamic referencing)?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Adding voluntary international or overseas standards as compliance options

All questions on this page relate to the following voluntary standards:

- ASTM F1967-24 - Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Bath Seats — in relation to warning label text and permanency requirements.
 - 5.91, 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.3.3, 7.3.4 – Permanence of warning labels
 - 8.4 – Warning Design for Product
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 - 8.2 – Marking of the product
 - 8.4 – Instructions for use

8 Compared to the mandatory standard, do you agree that each option listed below provides an equivalent level of safety and can be referenced in the mandatory standard as a compliance option?

	Yes	No
ASTM F1967-24 – in relation to warning label text and permanency requirements. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EN 17022:2018 and EN 17072:2018 – in relation to warning label text requirements. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EN 17072:2018 and EN 17072:2018 – in relation to warning label permanency requirements. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

9 Do you agree that the mandatory standard should reference each of the options listed below as they are updated from time-to-time (known as dynamic referencing)?

	Yes	No
ASTM F1967-24 – in relation to warning label text and permanency requirements. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EN 17022:2018 and EN 17072:2018 – in relation to warning label text requirements. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EN 17072:2018 and EN 17072:2018 – in relation to warning label permanency requirements. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Transition periods, compliance information and impacts on business

Each question relates to the mandatory standard for baby bath aids.

10 Transition periods allow time for suppliers to move from compliance with an older version of the standard to the new one. If the mandatory standard is updated to reference the 2024 version of the voluntary ASTM standard following this review, for how long should compliance with the 2013 version of this voluntary standard be allowed?

Provide your response below

11 Where a new version of a referenced voluntary standard is published, how long should the superseded version remain as a compliance option?

Provide your response below

12 Do you agree that product packaging or information provided with the product should state which referenced voluntary standard the product complies with?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

13 If you answered 'yes' to question 12, how should suppliers state which referenced standard the product complies with?

Please select all that apply

- ☐ A label attached to the product
- ☐ Information labelled on product packaging
- ☐ Information provided with the product – can be included with other product information such as user instructions
- ☐ Any of the above
- ☐ Other – provide more information below

If you wish, you can provide information on your answer below. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

14 Increasing compliance options and making mandatory standards dynamic removes the need to test products to bespoke or outdated requirements. Please provide any information, analysis or data about impacts on compliance costs and regulatory burden if the mandatory standard is updated. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Please provide any information, analysis or data about reduced compliance costs and regulatory burden if the mandatory standard is updated. You can also upload documentation at the end of this survey.

Upload supporting documentation

Our preference is supporting documentation to be in electronic format (such as MS Word or PDF) that is text searchable and allows a 'copy and paste' function. Clearly label all documentation that is commercial-in-confidence.

Upload your supporting documentation.

Please make sure your file is under 25MB.

15 Upload supporting documentation.

Please attach a copy of any documents you wish to include to this printout.

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Upload your supporting documentation.