ASTM's Role in Standards Development: Preventing Tipovers

Many product safety standards are developed using the ASTM International consensus process, which gives all participants an equal voice in the process. These voluntary standards help enhance safety and performance, giving people more confidence in the things they buy and use.

Nearly 1,000 ASTM members are part of Committee F15 on Consumer Products. They are responsible for maintaining about 100 standards for a wide variety of products including toys, furniture, baby cribs and other juvenile products, jewelry, pool alarms and more.

As part of F15, Subcommittee F15.42 on Furniture Safety specifically focuses on helping identify, address, and reduce hazards associated with the use and performance of these products. This subcommittee brings together more than 200 stakeholders, including representatives of both large and small furniture manufacturers, retailers, testing labs, consumer advocates, end consumers and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

F2057: Safety Specification for Clothing Storage Units

F15.42 oversees F2057, Safety Specification for Clothing Storage Units, originally approved in 2000. An important part of F2057 is aimed at helping minimize the potential for tipovers of clothing storage units — chests, drawer chests, chests of drawers, dressers, armoires, chifforobes, door chests, and bureaus. The voluntary standard was developed to address incident data reported to and analyzed by the CPSC.

F2057 includes mandatory requirements and tests to help prevent tipovers.

- A stability test forms the core of the F2057 standard, requiring that the unit not tip over when a specially configured 50-lb. weight is hung across a drawer.
- Furniture must remain stable with all drawers opened to their maximum sliding length and doors opened to 90 degrees.
- As of 2009, a required wall restraint must be included with each piece of furniture, providing an additional safety measure. The restraint must meet the requirements of another ASTM standard: F3096, Performance Specification for Tipover Restraint(s) Used with Clothing Storage Unit(s).
- A permanent warning label must be attached to the unit in a conspicuous place, listing ways to avoid possible hazards, including: not placing TVs or other heavy objects on top, not allowing children to climb or hang on the furniture, and not opening more than drawer at a time. The most recent changes to the warning label in 2019 include modified language on risk of tipovers and use of wall restraints and added graphics showing that televisions should not be placed on top of units.
In addition, the 2019 revision also lowers the height of the clothing storage units to include units 27 inches tall and above (previously 30 inches and above).


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