

Compliance with F3186-17 Standard and CPSC Modifications: Essential Information for Resellers

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and ASTM F3186-17 Standard have mandated that Bedside Balance Hand Rails and similar assistive products be classified as Adult Portable Bed Rails (APBRs).

Overview of the New Safety Standard:

On July 6, 2023, the CPSC issued a safety standard ruling, 16 CFR Part 1270, making the previously voluntary ASTM F3186-17 standard mandatory with modifications. This ruling aims to prevent head and neck entrapments caused by APBRs. It became effective on August 21, 2023, and applies to all manufacturers, importers and resellers of APBRs in the USA.

Key Requirements for Compliance:

To comply with ASTM F3186-17 and CPSC modifications, APBRs must:

- **Meet General and Performance Requirements:** Products must adhere to specified criteria.
- **Inform Consumers:** Manufacturers must specify the appropriate mattress thickness range and bed sizes for safe use.
- **Conduct Structural Integrity Testing.** Each product design must be force tested in five different planes at 100 N, with a 500 cycle count per plane.
- **Perform Entrapment Testing:** Each product design must undergo entrapment risk testing with different mattress sizes and bed types using an approved Entrapment Test Probe in the four designated zones.
- **Include Entrapment Warning Labels:** Products, packaging, instructions, marketing materials, and online advertising must feature prescribed warnings.
- **Document Compliance:** Manufacturers must provide test results demonstrating adherence to the Standard.
- **Label Products:** Each product must have a non-removable tag with manufacturer and CPSC/FDA contact information.
- **Provide a General Certificate of Conformity (GCC):** A GCC or an online link to a GCC must be available for each product.

Hartmobility's Actions:

At Hartmobility, we prioritize user and customer safety. Our bed rails were already compliant with the general and performance requirements of ASTM F3186-17. To ensure full compliance with the new CPSC modifications, we have made necessary adjustments to our testing, labelling and documentation.

Guidance for Resellers and Caregiver Operators:

In 2023, the CPSC oversaw a recall of nearly 2 million APBRs for non-compliance in the USA. As a reseller, it is crucial to ensure that the APBRs you sell are fully compliant with the new standards to protect your customers and minimize risks of lawsuits or recalls. Verify that each product has a GCC, appropriate labelling, and meets all the testing requirements specified in ASTM F3186-17 and CPSC modifications.