



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Drawstring Bulletin

Hazards of Drawstrings

Young children can be seriously injured or fatally entangled if the drawstrings of the upper outerwear they are wearing catch or snag. Most incidents involving upper outerwear occur when a drawstring gets entangled or caught on other objects, such as playground slides, hand rails, school bus doors or other moving objects.

Drawstrings on Children's Upper Outerwear

In 2012, the Commission determined that drawstrings on children's upper outerwear present a substantial product hazard and issued a rule, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(j), under Section 15(j) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA). Under Section 15(j), drawstrings at the hood or neck and waist or bottom areas that do not meet certain requirements present a substantial product hazard, present an unreasonable risk of injury and are considered a defect subject to reporting requirements and corrective action, including recalls and penalties.

Obligations

Section 15(b) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b), requires every manufacturer, importer, distributor, and retailer of consumer products to report immediately to the Commission when it obtains information that reasonably supports the conclusion that a product distributed in commerce contains a defect that could create a substantial product hazard or creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. The statute also provides for the imposition of civil and criminal penalties for failing to report the required information. Children's upper outerwear sold in the United States should comply with the voluntary safety standard, ASTM F-1816--*Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Drawstrings on Children's Upper Outerwear*, which can be ordered from ASTM International (www.astm.org).

Clothing Subject to the Requirements

Upper Outerwear:

Drawstrings are not allowed at the hood and neck area on children's upper outerwear. Drawstring are not allowed at the waist and bottom in upper outerwear.

"Upper outerwear" is defined as clothing such as jackets, ski vests, anoraks, and sweatshirts that generally are intended to be worn over other garments. This definition includes lightweight outerwear that is appropriate for use in warmer climates. Underwear, inner clothing layers, pants, shorts, swimwear, dresses and skirts are not considered upper outerwear.



Hood & Neck: Drawstrings are not allowed at the hood and neck area of upper outerwear. Children's upper outerwear should use alternative closures, such as snaps, buttons, Velcro, and elastic, pictured above.

Waist & Bottom: Drawstrings are not allowed at the waist and/or bottom area of upper outerwear

Definitions

Drawstrings: A drawstring is a non-retractable cord, ribbon, or tape of any material to pull together parts of upper outerwear to provide for closure and generally runs through a casing.

Ties: Ties are considered drawstrings and are subject to the requirements. Ties are a type of closure that can tie, snap or buckle and are attached to the garment through an eyelet, sewn into a seam or run through a casing.

Belts: Attached belts are considered drawstrings and prohibited by Burlington. Examples of prohibited attached belts include faux belts that are sewn, tacked or permanently affixed on. Only garments with belts that are easily pulled free with minimal effort are permitted to be sold.

Contact Burlington Product Safety

Contact any member of Burlington's Product Safety Team with questions or concerns at product.eval@burlingtonstores.com or the Chief Compliance Officer at (609) 387-7800, ext. 53181

This CPSC communication has been altered by Burlington in order to accurately convey Burlington specific standards which are stricter than the CPSC restrictions.

Contact CPSC

To view a listing of all drawstring related recalls, log on to: www.CPSC.gov. To report a dangerous product or product-related injury, go online to www.SaferProducts.gov or call CPSC's Hotline at: (800) 638-2772.

U.S. CPSC - Drawstrings

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