

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Fiscal Year 2023 Agency Report

- 1. Please provide a summary of your agency's activities undertaken to carry out the provisions of OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities" and the National Technology Transfer and Advance Act (NTTAA). The summary should contain a link to the agency's standards-specific website(s) where information about your agency's standards and conformity assessment related activities are available.**

From October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023, CPSC staff provided technical support or was otherwise engaged in the development of voluntary safety standards for 86 different products, product areas, or hazards. Voluntary standards activities are handled by various standards developing organizations (SDOs) that are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The majority of the standards where staff was involved are developed by either ASTM International (ASTM) or Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL). The standards provide safety provisions addressing potential hazards associated with consumer products found in homes, schools, and recreation areas. Twice a year, the CPSC staff issues a Voluntary Standards Tracking and Access Report, otherwise known as the VSTAR Report. This report shows, among other things, the product, product area, or hazard category associated with voluntary standards work, the name of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) employee leading each activity, the name(s) and designation(s) of the standards associated with the product, the purpose of staff's involvement, any associated mandatory standard or regulation, the activity by staff during the reporting period, and staff's next actions associated with the voluntary standard. The VSTAR report is issued bi-annually in the form of: (1) a Mid-Year Report, covering the period from October 1 through March 31, and (2) an Annual Report of the CPSC fiscal year, which covers the period from October 1 to September 30. More about this report and other voluntary standards activity at the CPSC can be found at the following: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Regulations-Laws--Standards/Voluntary-Standards>.

2. Please record any government-unique standards (GUS) your agency began using in lieu of voluntary consensus standards (VCS) during FY 2023. Please note, GUS which are still in effect from previous years should continue to be listed, and you do not need to report your agency's use of a GUS where no similar VCS exists.

Start by reviewing Table 1: Current Government Unique Standards FY2023.

To add a new GUS, please include:

1. The name of the GUS;
2. The name(s) and version(s) of the VCS(s) that might have been used, but after review, found to be inappropriate;
3. A brief rationale on why the VCS(s) was not chosen.

To rescind a GUS, (if they are no longer in use or have been replaced by a voluntary consensus standard) please:

1. Cross out the standard from Table 1.
2. Add a 'Rationale for Rescinding' explaining why the standard was rescinded.

Please record below the total number of GUS currently in use. This number should include the previous total plus any new GUS added, and minus any GUS rescinded:

Current total GUS: 2

Table 1: Current Government Unique Standards FY2023

(1) Government Unique Standard

16 CFR 1500.17(a)(13), Metal-Cored Candlewicks Containing Lead and Candles With Such Wicks
[Incorporated: 2003]

Voluntary Standard

Voices of Safety International (VOSI) standard on lead in candle wicks

Rationale

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission found that the VOSI standard is technically unsound, and thus would not result in the elimination or adequate reduction of the risk, and that substantial compliance with it is unlikely. See 68 Fed. Reg. 19145-6, paragraph H2, Voluntary Standards for further information on this finding.

(2) Government Unique Standard

CPSC 16 CFR Parts 1213, 1500, and 1513 for Bunk Beds [Incorporated: 2000]

Voluntary Standard

ASTM F1427-96 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bunk Beds

Rationale

The CPSC rules go beyond the provisions of the ASTM voluntary standard to provide increased protection to children from the risk of death and serious injury from entrapment.