

16 CFR 1242 Safety Standard for Nursing Pillows

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has approved a new mandatory safety standard for nursing pillows (16 CFR 1242), effective 23 April 2025, which is designed to reduce the risk of injury or death associated with these products.

Background

Between 2010 and 2022 in US, over 150 infant deaths were linked to nursing pillows — due to suffocation, entrapment, or SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). These products are not designed for infant sleep and must always be used under caregiver supervision.

What Is a Nursing Pillow?

A nursing pillow is any product designed to position and support an infant close to a caregiver's body during breastfeeding or bottle-feeding. It includes removable covers or slipcovers that come with the product. These pillows may rest upon, wrap around, or be worn by a seated or reclined caregiver.

Products Not Covered in 16 CFR 1242

This standard does NOT apply to the following:

- Maternity pillows (for adult use during pregnancy)
- Sling carriers (fabric carriers worn against the torso)
- Soft infant/toddler carriers (fabric-based upright carriers)



Testing Requirements

√ General Requirements:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Lead in paints | Must comply with 16 CFR 1303 (≤ 90 ppm). |
| Small parts | No small parts that can pose a choking hazard (per 16 CFR 1501). |
| Hazardous sharp edges or points | Must not have any accessible sharp points or edges (per 16 CFR 1500.48 and 1500.49). |
| Removal of components | Any parts accessible to infants after removal must still meet small parts and sharpness criteria. |
| Permanency of labels and warnings | Warning labels must remain legible and attached after specific testing. |

✓ **Performance Requirements:**

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| Firmness | To ensure the product maintains shape and provides stable support. |
| Infant Containment | Evaluates the design to keep the infant safely positioned during use. |
| Seam Strength | Ensures seams can withstand use without tearing or bursting. |
| Caregiver Attachment Strength | For wrap-around or wearable pillows, ensure all attachments such as straps or fasteners should remain attached after specific tension. |
| Infant Restraints (if applicable) | Nursing pillows are prohibited from having infant restraints. |

✓ **Labeling**

1. Every nursing pillow and its package must include:

- name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer, distributor, or seller
- Date of manufacture
- Recommended weight, height, age, or developmental stage



2. Permanent warning labels with the following:

- Do not use for sleep.
- Do not use in sleep products like cribs, bassinets, or play yards.
- Never leave the baby unattended in this product.
- Warning text must be clearly visible:
 - * **"WARNING":** the alert symbol and signal word ≥ 0.2 inches high
 - * **Other warning:** text ≥ 0.1 inches high
- Upholstery labels cannot be used to meet these requirements

✓ **Instructional Literature**

Instructional literature must include:

- All required warning statements
- Information on assembly, cleaning, maintenance, and safe use
- Additional safety messages:
 - * Read all instructions before using this product.
 - * Retain instructions for future use.
 - * Do not use this product if it is damaged or broken.
- Manufacturer's recommended weight, height, age, or developmental stage

Need Help with Testing?

✓ **Ensure your nursing pillows are compliant.**

- Full lab testing for physical and chemical safety
- Label review and instructional literature checks

| Test Standard | Turnaround Time | Sample Size |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Nursing pillows: 16 CFR 1242 | 5-7 working days | 3 finished articles |

Business Contact

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