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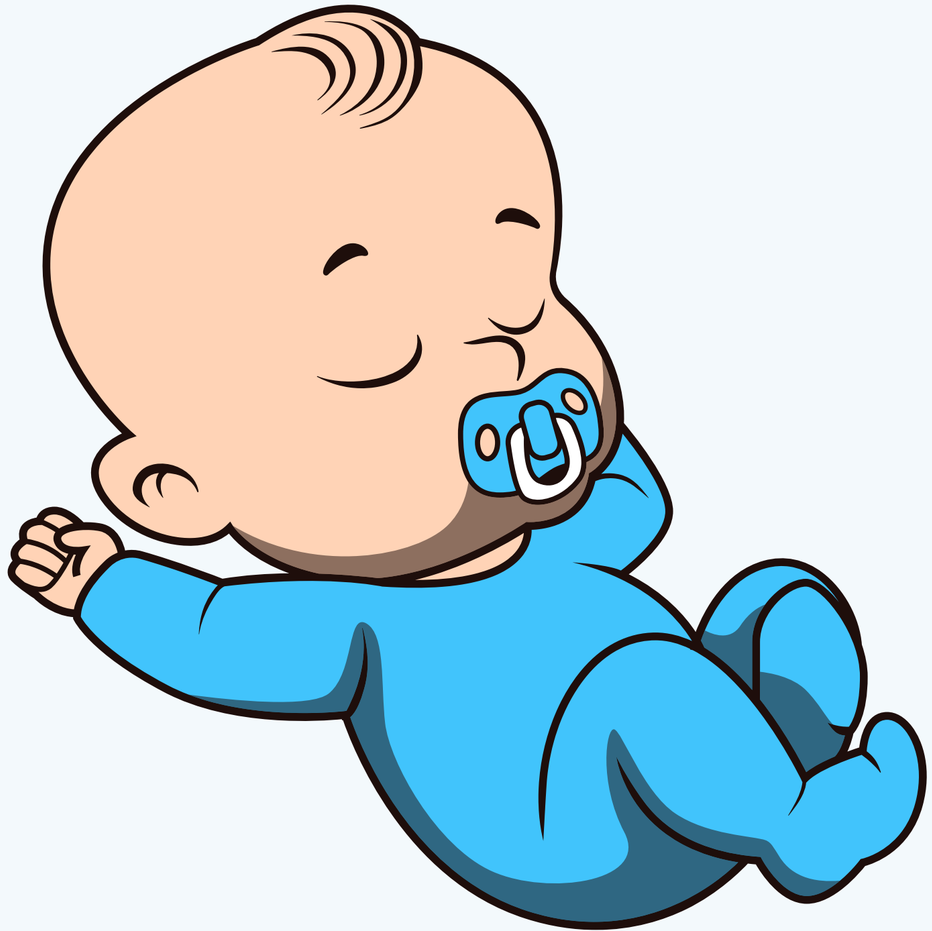
Infant Sleep Products - Part 1 Safety Standards



New safety & information standards.

The ACCC has just announced that new safety and information standards will apply to Infant Sleep Products, the standards will also have effect on certain non-sleep products. The new standards are known as the: -

- Consumer Goods (Infant Sleep Products) Safety Standard 2024
- Consumer Goods (Infant Products) Information Standard 2024

The new standards take a horizontal approach to managing the risks posed to infants when using products intended for sleep and other inclined non-sleep products.

Important definitions to help identify what infant products will be affected.

Infant sleep product:

1.means a product that:

(a) is designed, intended, marketed, supplied, or offered for supply, for use as a sleeping facility for an infant or for use as a facility to soothe or settle an infant; and

(b) has a surface on which an infant may lay; and

2. includes a product that is designed to convert to an infant sleep product.

Inclined non-sleep product means a product that:

(a) is designed, intended, marketed, supplied, or offered for supply, for use by an infant; and

(b) has a surface on which an infant may lay; and

(c) when used, may position the infant's head above the horizontal; and

(d) is not supplied, or offered for supply, as an infant sleep product and does not purport that it is suitable for infant sleep, even if an infant may fall asleep when using the product.

Infant, in relation to an infant product, means:

- a person under the age of 12 months; or
- person over the age of 12 months that might reasonably use the product.

What are the changes?

Current mandatory safety standards will be replaced by new safety and information standards. An 18-month transition period will allow suppliers and retailers time to adjust their products, ensuring compliance with the new standards by the end of this period.

Which safety standards are being replaced?

- the Consumer Product Safety Standard for Children’s Portable Folding Cots (Consumer Protection Notice No. 4 of 2008).

- the Consumer Product Safety Standard: Children’s Household Cots (Consumer Protection Notice No. 6 of 2005).

Australian standards referenced by new safety regulation.

The new safety regulations will introduce requirements with references from the following Australian standards:

- Household Cots - AS/NZS 2172:2013, Cots for household use—Safety Requirements.
- Folding Cots - AS/NZS 2195:2010, Folding cots—Safety requirements.
- Rocking Cradles - AS/NZS 4385:1996, Infants’ rocking cradles—Safety requirements.
- AS/NZS 8811.1:2013, Methods of testing infant products—Method 1: Sleep Surfaces—Test for firmness

Note: Refer to the applicable regulations to confirm the specific sections of the standards that must be applied under the new requirements.

International standards referenced by new safety regulation.

The new safety regulations will introduce requirements referenced from the following international standards:

- BS EN 1130:2019, Children’s furniture-cribs-safety requirements and test methods
- EN 16890:2017+A1:2021, Children’s furniture—Mattresses for cots and cribs—Safety requirements and test method.
- EN 1466:2014&AC:2015 Child use and care articles - Carry cots and stands - Safety requirements and test methods.
- ASTM F2933:21a Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Crib Mattresses.
- ASTM F1169-19, Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Baby Cribs.
- ASTM F406-19, Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play.

Note: Refer to the applicable regulations to confirm the specific sections of the standards that must be applied under the new requirements.

General requirements for infant sleep products.

What are the new general requirements being introduced?

The new safety regulations will introduce general requirements that apply to a number of different products including the following attributes:

- **Incline (horizontal)** - the surface of an infant sleep product must not have an incline greater than 7 degrees.

- **Incline (vertical)** - An infant sleep product that rocks or swings, must not have a vertical tilt or vertical incline greater than 7 degrees & must comply with the rocking cradle locking device and tilt test.

- **Curvature** - The surface of an infant sleep product on which the infant may lay must be flat; and not have curvature when tested in accordance with the regulation.

General requirements continued.

- **Surface rigidity** - The surface of an infant sleep product on which the infant may lay (including any mattress of an infant sleep product) must comply with AS/NZS8811.12013 Methods of testing infant products—Method 1: Sleep Surfaces—Test for firmness; or the mattress firmness requirements in the European Standard EN 16890:2017+A1:2021 Children's furniture—Mattresses for cots and cribs—Safety requirements and test method; or the mattress firmness requirements in the United States Standard ASTM F2933:21a Consumer Safety Specification for Crib Mattresses.

- **Mattress** - an infant sleep product that is a mattress, or a mattress supplied with an infant sleep product, must meet surface rigidity requirements, have mattress dimensions indicated on the product, segmented mattresses must not fold or separate when laid on, must fit snugly with no gaps between the sides of the mattress and product and meet the clause 6.1(d) of AS/NZS 2172:2013.

General requirements continued.

- **Material of sides -** An infant sleep product designed with fabric or mesh sides into which an infant may roll:

(a) must either:

(i) have sides that are firm enough to not conform to the shape and contours of the infant's nose or mouth; or

(ii) be made of a material that an infant can breathe through; and

(b) comply with either:

(i) clause 6.3.3 (breathability of textiles material and other materials) and clause 8.2 (breathability) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots; or

(ii) clause 8.4(d) (firmness) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots.

General requirements continued.

- **Restraint system prohibited** - An infant sleep product must not have a restraint system, harness or strap for restraining an infant.
- **Castors or wheels** - If an infant sleep product is fitted with castors or wheels, at least 2 of the castors or wheels must be fitted with a brake.
- **Entanglement hazard** - An infant sleep product must not have attached to it any ribbons, cords or other decorations that may be a choking or strangulation hazard to the infant.
- **Fit for purpose** - An infant sleep product must be designed to have sufficient strength and integrity to safely support an infant under normal use conditions or foreseeable misuse.

General requirements continued.

- **Locking mechanism** - If an infant sleep product has a locking mechanism:

  (a) the locking mechanism must have a clearly distinct locked position; and

  (b) when the locking mechanism is engaged, it must be readily apparent that it is engaged; and

  (c) the locking mechanism must remain secure when engaged and must not be able to be inadvertently disengaged; and

  (d) the locking mechanism must not generate any finger entrapment or pinch points; and

  (e) the infant sleep product must comply with clause 10.9 (locking mechanism test) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots.

General requirements continued.

- **Materials (component requirements) -** An infant sleep product must comply with the following:

(a) any components of the infant sleep product that are made from wood must be free from splinters;

(b) any components of the infant sleep product that are made from metal such as springs, nut, bolts and washers must be made of a corrosion resistant metal or be corrosion resistant;

(c) any decorative transfers or labels must not be accessible to the infant within the infant sleep product;

(d) the requirements in either:

(i) clause 6.7 (snag points) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2172:2013 for household cots; or

(ii) clause 8.7 (protrusions and gaps) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots;

(e) the requirements in either:

(i) clause 6.8 (sharp edges and sharp points) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2172:2013 for household cots; or

(ii) clause 8.8 (sharp edges and sharp points) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots.

General requirements continued.

- **Entrapment hazard**

(1) An infant sleep product must not have any gaps into which an infants finger, limb, head or neck may be inserted and become trapped.

(2) The infant sleep product must comply with either:

(a) clause 9.2 (entrapment hazard test) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2172:2013 for household cots; or

(b) clause 10.2 (entrapment hazard test) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots

- **Small parts** - Any component or removable part of an infant sleep product (whether the component is intended to be removed with the use of a tool or not) must not be able to fit entirely within a small parts cylinder that has a 5.7 cm long axis diameter, is 10.7 cm in length and has a 4.5 cm short axis diameter.

Specific requirements for household cots, portable cots & bassinets.

Household Cots

Specific requirements applicable to household cots.

A household cot must comply complies with the requirements of either of the following standards:

Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2172:2013 for household cots:

(a) clause 5 (construction);

(b) clause 6.1 (dimensions);

(c) clause 6.2 (footholds);

(d) clause 6.5 (bottom rails);

(e) clause 9.2 (entrapment hazard test);

(f) clause 9.3 (impact test);

(g) clause 9.4 (filler bar, filler panel and corner post strength test), or

United States Standard ASTM F1169-19 Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Baby Cribs:

(a) clause 5.6 (crib side configurations);

(b) clause 5.7 (full-size baby cribs—dimensions);

(c) clause 5.8 (spacing of crib components);

(d) clause 6.7 (spindle/slat strength testing), or

Specific requirements applicable to household cots continued.

British Standard BS EN 1130:2019 for Children’s furniture-cribs-safety requirements and test methods:

(a) clause 8.5.1 (height of sides and ends);

(b) clause 8.5.4 (stability);

(c) clause 8.11.2 (static strength);

(d) clause 8.11.3 (strength of sides, structural members of the sides, ends and corners);

(e) clause 8.11.4 (vertical static load).

Specific requirements for household cots with a dropside.

A household cot supplied with a side that is designed to be raised and lowered must comply with the following provisions of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2172:2013 for household cots:

(a) clause 6.3 (design of access fastening device);

(b) clause 6.4 (dropside guides);

(c) clause 9.5 (access fastening device and dropside mechanism strength test);

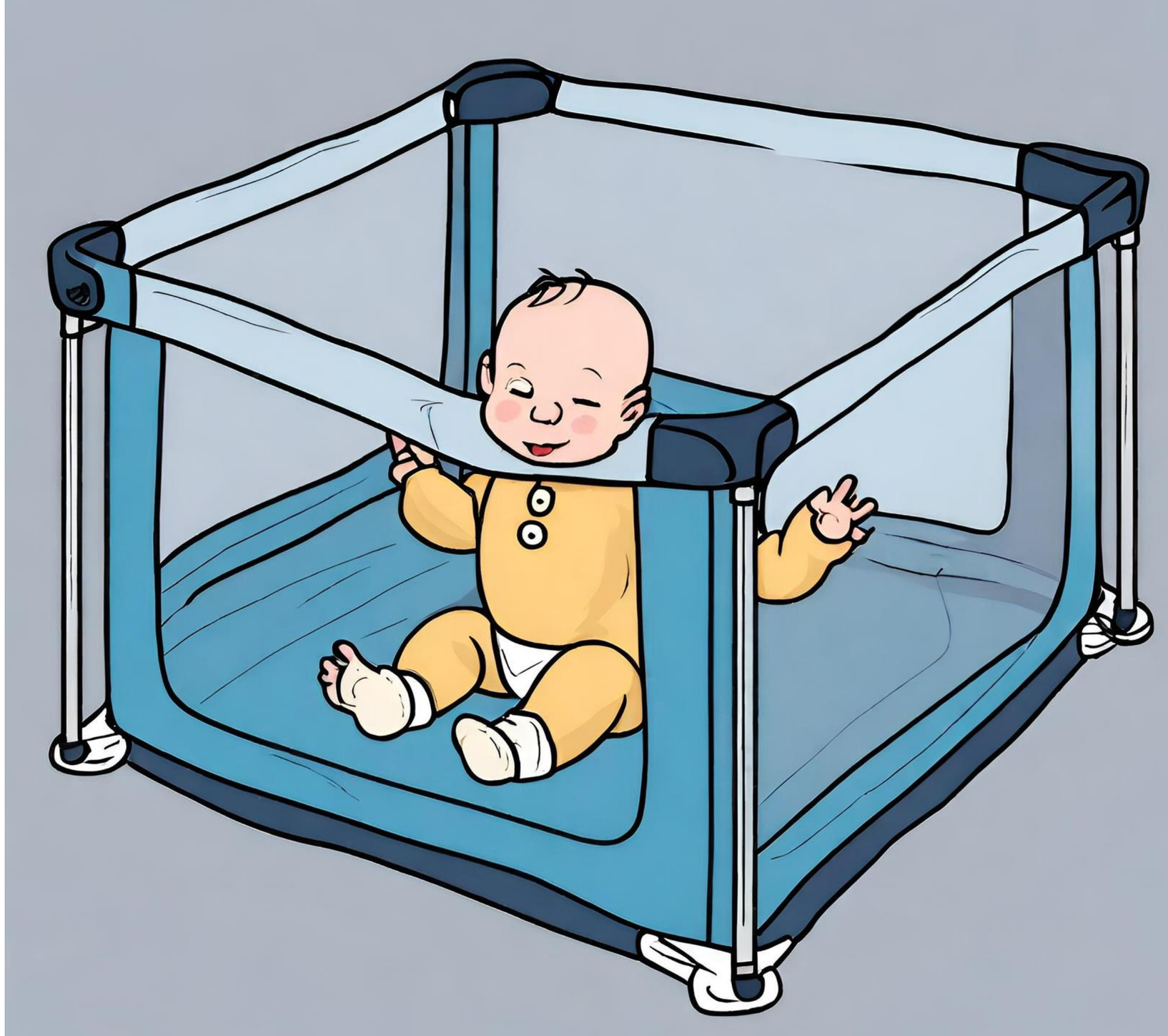
(d) clause 9.6 (access fastening device durability test);

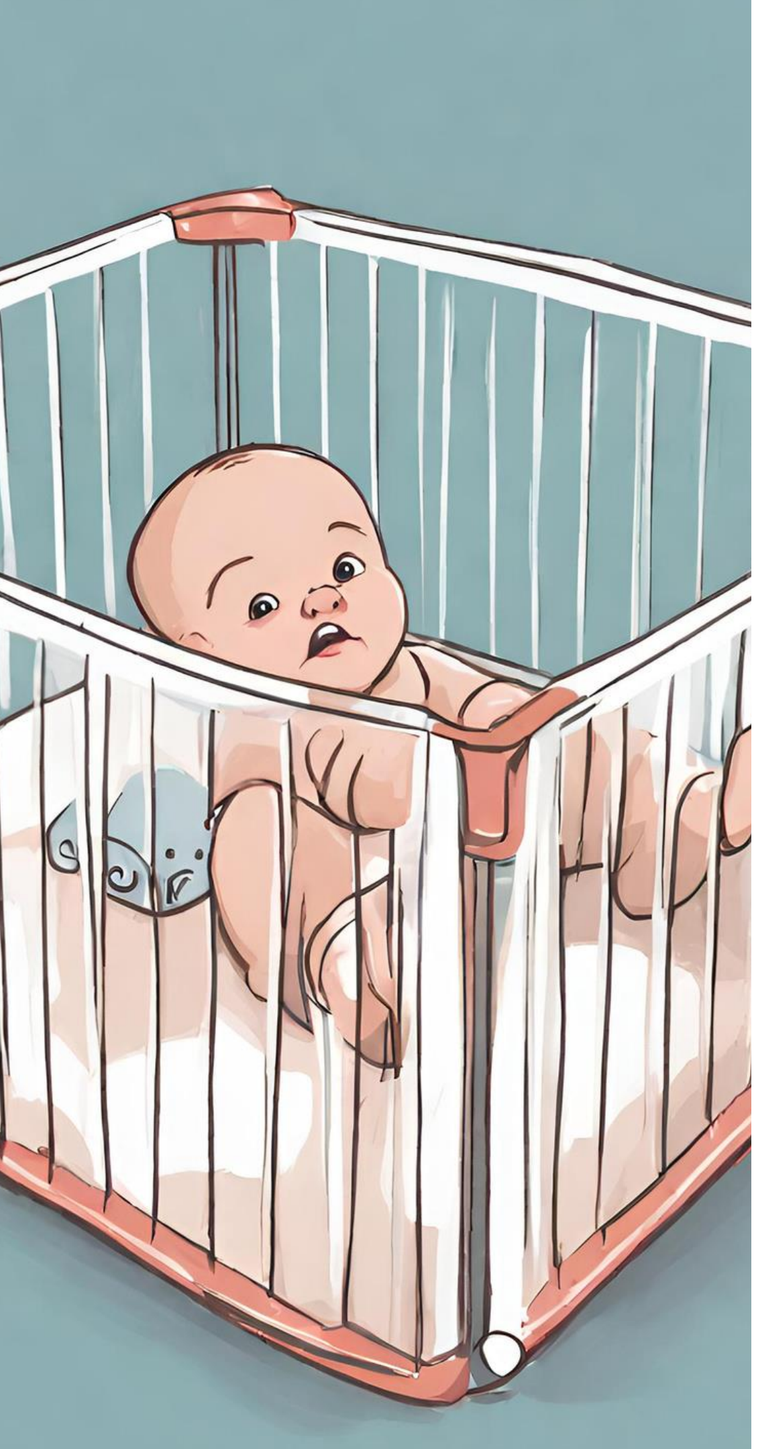
(e) clause 9.7 (dropside mechanism durability test);

(f) clause 9.8 (stability test);

(g) clause 9.11 (dropside strength test).

Folding Cots





Specific requirements applicable to folding cots.

A folding cot must comply complies with the requirements of either of the following standards:

Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots:

(a) clause 7 (construction and assembly);

(b) clause 8 (design);

(c) clause 10.2 (entrapment hazard test);

(d) clause 10.3 (stability test);

(e) clause 10.4 (strength test), or

European Standard EN 1466:2014&AC:2015 for Child use and care articles - Carry cots and stands:

(a) clause 7.1.2.2 (internal height of rigid carry cots);

(b) clause 7.1.2.4 (overall height of a carry cot with flexible handles);

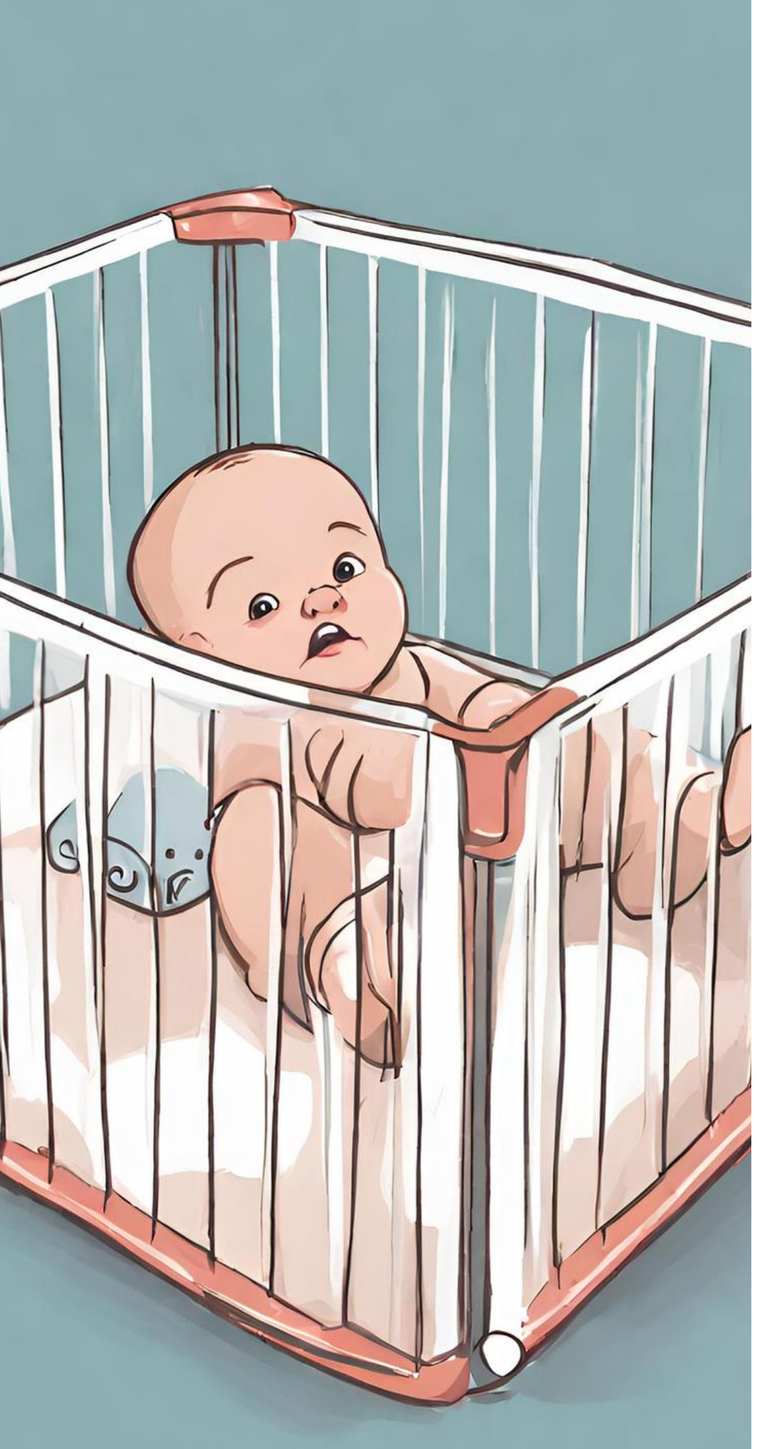
(c) clause 7.8.1 (stability of carry cots);

(d) clause 7.8.2 (longitudinal stability of carry cots);

(e) clause 7.8.3 (stability of stands and retention of carry cot on the stand);

(f) clause 7.9.2 (strength of carry cots);

(g) clause 7.9.3 (strength of stands): or



Specific requirements applicable to folding cots continued.

United States Standard ASTM F406-19 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs/Play:

(a) clause 5.12 (stability) of the; and

(b) if the folding cot has rigid sides—the following clauses of that standard:

(i) clause 6.2 (crib-side height);

(ii) clause 6.3 (spacing of unit components);

(iii) clause 6.16 (spindle/slat strength testing); and

(c) if the folding cot has mesh or fabric sides—the following clauses of that standard:

(i) clause 7.2 (height of sides);

(ii) clause 7.3 (side deflection and strength);

(iii) clause 7.4 (floor strength);

(iv) clause 7.6.2 (mesh strength);

(v) clause 7.7 (fabric material requirements);

(vi) clause 7.8 (mesh/fabric assembly requirements);

(vii) clause 7.10 (top rail configuration).

Bassinets

Specific requirements applicable to bassinets.

A bassinet must comply complies with the requirements of either of the following standards:

- **Side height** - The vertical distance between the top of the mattress or sleep surface and the top edge of the lowest side or end of a bassinet must not be less than 250mm.
- **Filler bars** - If a bassinet is designed with filler bars or slats, the distance between the adjacent filler bars or slats must not be less than 50mm and not greater than 65mm.
- **Materials** - If a bassinet is designed with fabric or mesh, the fabric or mesh must comply with the materials requirements in clause 6 (materials) of the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 for folding cots.
- **Base width** - The width of the base of a bassinet must:

(a) be sufficient to ensure that the bassinet can safely contain an infant; and

(b) be sufficiently stable when used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Specific requirements applicable to bassinets continued.

Warnings - The bassinet must have a clearly visible, prominent, legible and permanently attached warning that consists of the words: -

“WARNING: do not use this product when the infant begins to push up on hands and knees or has reached *[insert manufacturer’s recommended maximum weight]*, whichever comes first”.