

September 28, 2007

Linda Gibbs
Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Mayor Gibbs:

I am deeply concerned that dangerous, recently-recalled cribs and play yards may be in use at city agencies. As a result, I am calling on the city to conduct an immediate and comprehensive inventory of all cribs and play yards within its facilities as well as to repair and/or replace all of the cribs and play yards in question. I am also asking the administration to instruct all city contract entities, such as foster care agencies, homeless shelters, and child care centers, which could use, distribute, loan and/or store cribs and play yards, to conduct the same review.

Last Friday, Graco and Simplicity, Inc., two nation-wide baby crib manufacturers, recalled one million cribs after three children were suffocated and seven infants were trapped by their faulty construction and design. Today, Kolcraft recalled more than 400,000 play yards, which are changing tables for infants, after the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) received a report that a faulty restraint strap had strangled a 10-month-old boy.

The CPSC, concerned that parents do not know of the dangers posed by the cribs, issued a national safety warning last week. According to their Deputy Director, Scott Wolfson, the Commission wants to make sure that it is informing the “greatest number of parents and caregivers possible and preventing any other child from being injured by this product.”

City agencies have an obligation to ensure that all furniture, toys, gadgets, and other items used by and for children are safe. Therefore, the city and all contract entities must identify and repair and/or replace the attached list of recalled crib and play yard models (see attachment).

Please inform me whether the city already has protocols in place to manage such recalls or if the city needs to create these procedures. Please also provide my office with specific steps the city is taking to address this potentially dangerous situation. My staff will follow up with your office in ten days. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Regards,

Betsy Gotbaum

List of Recalled Crib and Play Yard Models

1. Aspen 3 in 1, Aspen 4 in 1, Nursery-in-a-Box, Crib N Changer Combo, Chelsea and Pooh 4 in 1;
2. Aspen 3 in 1, Ultra 3 in 1, Ultra 4 in1, Ultra 5 in 1, Whitney and the Trio (Simplicity cribs that use the Graco logo);
3. Simplicity 4600, 4605, 4705, 5000, 8000, 8324, 8800, 8740, 8910, 8994, 8050, 8750, 8760, and 8996 (Model numbers can be found on the envelope attached to the mattress support and on the label attached to the headboard);
4. Kolcraft Travelin' Tot, Kolcraft Travelin' Tot LTD, Kolcraft Travelin' Tot 3-in-1, Kolcraft Travelin' Tot 4-in-1 (Model numbers include: 18730T-BZ, 18730T-HJ, 18734T-DV, 18934-SW, 18934-DV, 18935T-UT, 18935-CH, 18942-EC, 18950-GV, 18950T-GV, 18751-DV, 18951T-GS, 18951T-MO, 18744-BL);
5. Carter's Lennon Travelin' Tot (Model Numbers include: 18740-UE, 18740T-UE, 18736T-LJ, 18737-LJ, 18737T-LJ);
6. "Sesame Beginnings" by Kolcraft Travel Play Yard (Model numbers include: 22361-VT, SP001-SBK);
7. Jeep Sahara SE Play Yard, Jeep Sahara Limited Play Yard, Jeep Sahara XT Play Yard, Jeep Sahara Limited SE Play Yard, Jeep Sahara Limited XT Play Yard (Model numbers include: 55235-JC, 55237-JQ, 55237T-JQ, 55237-XC, 55237-XV, 55237T-XB, 55770-XA, 55770-XI, 55772-XE, 55773-XY, JP002-XSP); and
8. Contours 3-in-1 Play Yard with rocking cradle and changing table restraint strap (Model numbers include: 18604-OC, ZP003-MAL).