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Bunk beds

Market surveillance 2003

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Introduction

The National Consumer Agency has carried out a market surveillance operation of bunk beds, as part of its constant work of monitoring compliance with the Product Safety Directive.

The Product Safety Act

The National Consumer Agency is Sweden's surveillance and compliance authority for matters relating to product safety, and is empowered to take action under the Product Safety Act (PSA) (SFS 1988:1604). The purpose of the Act is to prevent goods or services from causing damage to property or injury to persons. Manufacturers are always responsible for ensuring that their products meet satisfactory safety requirements.

If a product is not safe, the manufacturer shall generally be given the opportunity voluntarily to take the necessary steps to make it so. If he does not do so, he can be required to provide safety information, be forbidden to supply the product, be required to provide warning information or be required to recall the product, and can also be banned from exporting it.

Summary

Of 34 bunk beds that were inspected, 29 had acceptable test certificates. Three beds had no test certificates, or had certificates that were so old that the Agency advised the companies either to re-test the beds or to take them off the market. One bed had a number of lesser non-compliances with the standard, which were pointed out to the manufacturer. The fifth bed was, according to its manufacturer, no longer sold.

Background

Bunk beds are a product that must meet particularly high safety standards, as children in them are often not under the eye of an adult. In order to prevent injury to children in their beds, the National Consumer Agency has agreed safety requirements with manufacturers, which are set out in the Agency's guidelines for safety requirements applicable to bunk beds. According to these guidelines, bunk beds on the Swedish market must comply with the safety requirements set out in Swedish Standard SS-EN 747 - Furniture - Bunk beds for domestic use - Part 1 - Safety requirements, or with other safety requirements that guarantee a corresponding level of safety. The guidelines specify that the manufacturer, importer or other business that supplies bunk beds shall be able, if requested by the National Consumer Agency, to supply test certificates that show that the bed has been tested and that it meets the requirements in the applicable standard, or other requirements that guarantee a corresponding level of safety.

Performing the market surveillance operation

The market surveillance inspection of bunk beds and high beds was performed on behalf of the Agency by SP Swedish National Testing and Research Institute. The operation was carried out during the autumn of 2002, and involved visits to 20 retail outlets, chosen at random over southern and central Sweden, but with the exception of the Stockholm area.

At each outlet, in addition to name and address details, SP noted information on the manufacturer or importer of the product, the product name, whether the bed was marked to show the maximum permissible mattress thickness, certain dimensions and whether there was a gap in the side planks for a ladder. In addition, an informatory letter on market surveillance from the Agency was also given to the outlet.

With the information from SP's report as a basis, the Agency wrote to the manufacturers asking for test certificates showing that the beds complied with the requirements in the applicable standard or with corresponding requirements. Companies that did not answer within the required time were contacted by phone and, in some cases, by further letters to obtain the necessary test certificates so that we could decide whether the beds met the applicable requirements or not.

Results

SP visited 20 shops, and found 34 bunk beds, as shown below:

Bed – identification	**Manufacturer / importer**
Talgö bunk bed	Talgö A/S NO-6645 Todalen, Norway
Loftet Talgö high bed	
Sivi bunk bed, item C05, 794/B130-1	
Kid bed system	Sievä Tiiriskankaantie 3, FI-15860 Hollolla, Finland
Kid, item no. 01291	
Rondo	
No. 83	Br. Johanssons Sängfabrik Värnamovägen 1, SE-333 21 Smålandsstenar
No. 85	
No. 86	
No. 92	
Kalle	Bite Möbel AB Box 96, SE-280 80 Bjärnum
Flexa bed system	Flexa Möbler A/S Björnkärnvej 16, DK-8783 Hornsyld, Denmark
Bella 2 bunk bed	
High bed, B06X 702/B111	
Bunk bed, A09 321/A65	
Kalle loft bed	
Martin	Mio AB Box 59, 543 21 TIBRO

Bed – identification	Manufacturer / importer
Fantasi	Licentia Kiekebyvej 4 Nors, NO-7700 Thisted, Norway Agent in Sweden: Torbjörn Blom Kråkerödsv 6, SE-310 44 Getinge
Emil	Peter Franssons Snickeri AB Kråksjö, SE-360 53 Skruv
127 bunk bed	
Midi bed system	Stompa Postbox 33, Bryn, NO-0611 Oslo. Norway
Oppdal	
Stompa Friends Studio	
Joel loft bed (EM Möbler)	EM Möbler Staunvej 89, Farstup, Denmark
Baloo	
Campus loft bed	Möbelhjärtat/Interstil AB Box 179, SE-661 24 Säffle
Siw 70x190 and 90x200 Nos. 3115401 and 3115403	Unistyle Furniture A/S Anlängsgade 26, DK-7870 Durup, Denmark
Maren 301 57 04	
Kasper no. 309 63 03	
Joel (Kents Möbler)	Own import
Joel	Br. Steens Snickerifabrik Steensväg, SE-361 95 Långa Sjö
Trädets bunk bed	Trädets Snickerifabrik AB Nya Börstigsv. 6, SE-520 26 Trädet
Emil, (called Joel by the manufacturer))	The Europamöbler chain's own purchase
Knatte bunk bed A03X 705/R179	Svenska Hem Meteorologvägen 10 SE-555 93 Jönköping

Beds with approvable test certificates:

Br. Johanssons Sängfabrik	No. 83
Br. Johanssons Sängfabrik	No. 85
Br. Johanssons Sängfabrik	No. 86
Br. Johanssons Sängfabrik	No. 92
EM Möbler	Baloo
EM Möbler	Joel loft bed
Jysk Bäddlager AB	Kasper
Jysk Bäddlager AB	Maren 3015704
Jysk Bäddlager AB	Siw nos. 3115401 and 3115403
Licentia group	Fantasi
Licentia group	Emil
Mio AB	Kid bed system
Mio AB	Kid item no. 01291
Mio AB (Krim prod)	Kalle
Mio AB	Martin

Svenska Hem	Knatte bunk bed A03X 705/R179
Svenska Hem	Flexa bed system
Svenska Hem	Bella 2 bunk bed
Svenska Hem	Kalle loft bed
Svenska Hem	Bunk bed A09 321/A65
Sievä, Bäddspecialisten, Sängvaru-Huset i Borlänge	Rondo
Stompa	Midi bed system
Stompa	Stompa Friends Studio
Sängmiljö I Borlänge AB	Stompa Friends Studio
Talgö Möbelfabrikk, Myrjarv	Bunk bed, Talgö
Talgö Möbelfabrikk, Myrjarv	Bunk bed, A09 321/A65
Talgö Möbelfabrikk, Myrjarv	High bed, Loftet Talgö
Talgö Möbelfabrikk, Myrjarv	High bed, B06X 702/B111
Talgö Möbelfabrikk, Myrjarv	Sivi bunk bed, item C05, 794/B130-1

Test certificates were also submitted for two beds that were not found in the surveillance inspection. They show that the beds comply with the requirements in the applicable standard:

Br. Johanssons Sängfabrik	No. 24
Br. Johanssons Sängfabrik	No. 26

Three companies were advised to have their bed(s) re-tested, or to take them off the market:

Br. Steens Snickerifabrik	Joel
Trädets Agentur	Trädets bunk bed
Interstil AB	Campus loft bed

One bed was the subject of a warning:

Jysk Bäddlager AB	Siw 70x190 and 90x200 Nos. 3115401 and 3115403

One bed is no longer sold:

According to its manufacturer, Natti-Natti, the Oppdal bed is no longer sold.