



Designation: F1427 – 21<sup>ε1</sup>

# Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bunk Beds<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1427; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

<sup>ε1</sup> NOTE—Fig. 10 was updated editorially in October 2021.

## INTRODUCTION

This consumer safety specification addresses bunk bed accidents that were identified by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

The CPSC estimates that in 1989, about 34 000 bunk bed-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms, and about three fourths of those injured were under the age of 15. Most of these injuries were minor and were associated with victims who fell from, bumped into, or jumped from bunk beds. However, there are other less-obvious potentially serious hazards associated with bunk beds. For example, from 1973 through November 1990, CPSC also received reports of 83 deaths of children less than 15 years of age involving bunk beds. Seventy-four incidents, including 17 deaths, involved children who reportedly became entrapped between the mattress and guardrail; 24 incidents, including five deaths, involved children who reportedly became entrapped either between the mattress and bed structure or in the bed end structure; and 18 incidents, including 16 deaths, involved young children who reportedly became entrapped between the bed and the wall. The CPSC also received reports of four deaths due to failure of the mattress support, 19 deaths due to falls from bunk beds, twelve deaths due to strangulation when a belt, rope, or clothing became caught on the bed structure, and ten deaths due to other or unknown causes.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification establishes minimum requirements for the design and performance of bunk beds. It also contains requirements for labeling and instructional material.

1.2 This consumer safety specification is intended to minimize accidents to children resulting from normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse or abuse of bunk beds. This consumer safety specification is written within the current state of the art of bunk bed technology and does not address bunk beds that are blatantly misused or are used in a careless manner that disregards warning statements and safety instructions provided with each bunk bed.

1.3 For the purpose of this consumer safety specification, a bunk bed (hereinafter referred to as a bed) is defined as any

structure that includes at least one sleeping surface in which the underside of any of its foundations is over 30 in. (762 mm) from the floor.

1.4 This consumer safety specification does not address bunk beds for institutional use (for example, in prisons, military facilities, dormitories, and so forth).

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units, as well as any specified ISO/ANSI standard hardware, are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.6 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 5, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the*

<sup>1</sup> This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.30 on Bunk Beds.

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Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

**2. Referenced Documents**

- 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>  
[D3359 Test Methods for Rating Adhesion by Tape Test](#)
- 2.2 Federal Standards:<sup>3</sup>  
[16 CFR Part 1303 Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead-Containing Paint](#)  
[16 CFR Part 1500 Hazardous Substances Act Regulations, including sections:](#)  
[1500.48 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Point in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 8 Years of Age](#)  
[1500.49 Technical Requirements for Determining a Sharp Metal or Glass Edge in Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 8 Years of Age](#)  
[16 CFR Part 1501 Method for Identifying Toys and Other Articles Intended for Use by Children Under 3 Years of Age Which Present Choking, Aspiration or Ingestion Hazards Because of Small Parts](#)  
[16 CFR Part 1632 Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses and Mattress Pads<sup>4</sup>](#)

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For Annual Book of ASTM Standards volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> Federal regulations 16 CFR Part 1303, 16 CFR Section 1500.48, 16 CFR Section 1500.49, 16 CFR Part 1501, and 16 CFR Part 1632 are in effect and are administered by the CPSC. These federal regulations are not a part of this safety specification. This information is offered to all parties so that they know that these federal regulations must be adhered to outside the scope of this safety specification. Copies of the regulations may be obtained from The Office of the Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

<sup>4</sup> If beds are accompanied by mattresses.

**3. Terminology**

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

- 3.1.1 *bed, n*—for the purpose of this specification, a bunk bed, as described in 3.1.5.
- 3.1.2 *bed end structure, n*—upright unit at the head and foot of the bed, to which the side rails attach.
- 3.1.3 *bed post, n*—upright post at each corner of the bed structure.
- 3.1.4 *bed structure, n*—furniture parts assembled for the purpose of providing a sleeping environment.
- 3.1.5 *bunk bed, n*—any structure that includes at least one sleeping surface in which the underside of any of its foundations is over 30 in. (762 mm) from the floor.
- 3.1.6 *cap, n*—device used to plug holes in the top of the corner post. (See Fig. 1.)  
 3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—The holes are used for corner post extensions when a bunk bed is converted into single use beds.
- 3.1.7 *foundation, n*—of a bed, base or support for a mattress.  
 3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—The foundation may be independent from or incorporated with the sleeping surface.
- 3.1.8 *foundation support system, n*—of a bed, those components of the bed structure that support the foundation.
- 3.1.9 *guardrail, n*—of a bed, rail attached to each long side of the bed to help prevent a sleeping occupant from rolling or sliding out of the bed.
- 3.1.10 *interior bed structure, n*—interior faces of the side rails and bed end structures.
- 3.1.11 *mattress, n*—manufactured product intended to be slept on, consisting of various resilient materials covered with an outer ticking.

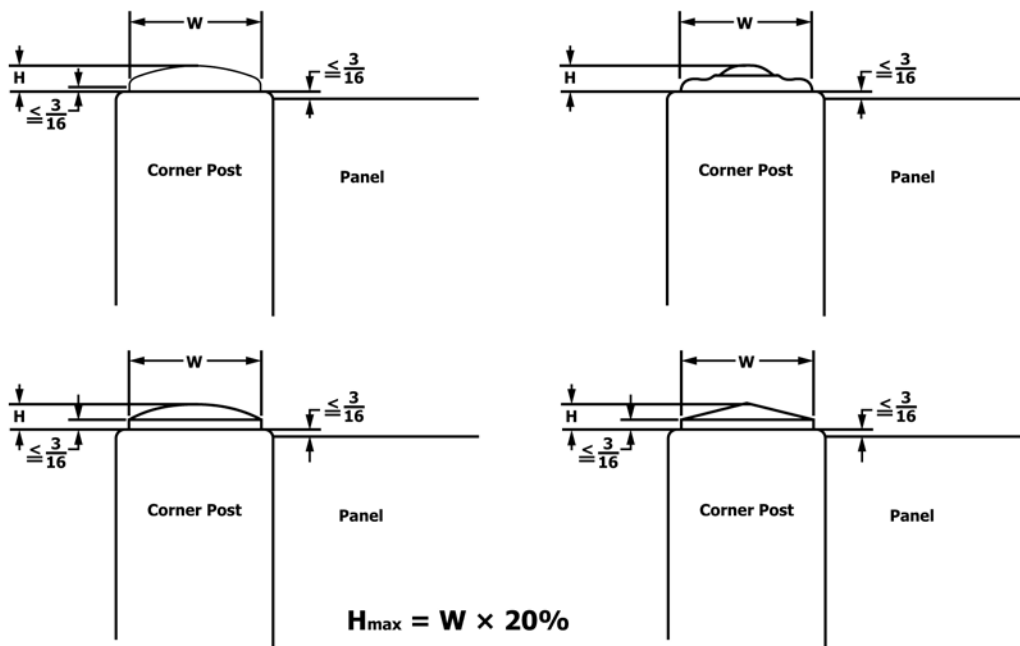


FIG. 1 Examples of Caps

3.1.12 *side rail, n*—of a bed structure, rail attached to the bed end structures to which the foundation support system is fastened.

3.1.13 *vertical protrusion, n*—projection which, at the edge, is vertical or near vertical to the inside adjacent surface along the top of the component. (See Fig. 2.)

3.1.13.1 *Discussion*—Vertical protrusions may be removable or permanent.

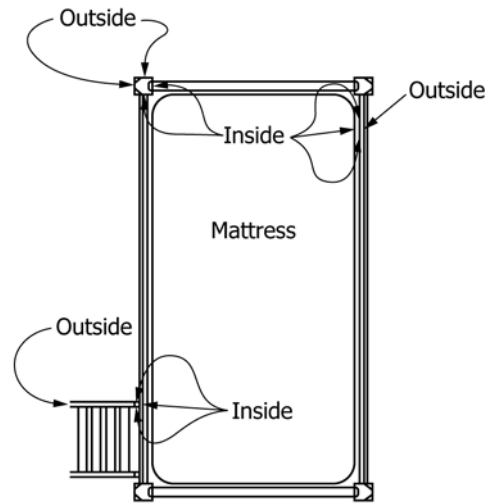
**4. Performance Requirements**

**4.1 Vertical Protrusions:**

4.1.1 All vertical protrusions along the top inside (Fig. 3) surfaces of any individual component (including but not limited to bed end structures and guard rails) of the upper bunk shall not extend more than 3/16 in. (4.8 mm) above the upper edge of the adjacent surface. Ladder stiles (uprights) shall not extend more than 3/16 in. (4.8 mm) above the upper edge of the adjacent surface.

4.1.2 Any cap used along the top surface of the upper bunk shall not have a vertical protrusion greater than 3/16 in. (4.8 mm) at the edge of the protrusion above the upper edge of the adjacent surface. If the cap is flush with or overhangs the edge of the corner post or other vertical protrusion, the maximum vertical protrusion shall not exceed 3/16 in. (4.8 mm). The cap shall have a maximum height of no more than 20 % of the width or diameter of the cap (Fig. 4). At no point shall the cap overhang the post more than 1/16 in. (2 mm). The cap shall fit flush with the top of the corner post.

4.2 *Fit of Top Bed to Bottom Bed*—The bed post shall be designed so that the minimum height of lift to allow horizontal disengagement of the top bed from the bottom bed shall be 1 1/4 in. (32 mm), or a fastening mechanism may be used that will prevent the disengagement of the top bed from the bottom bed.



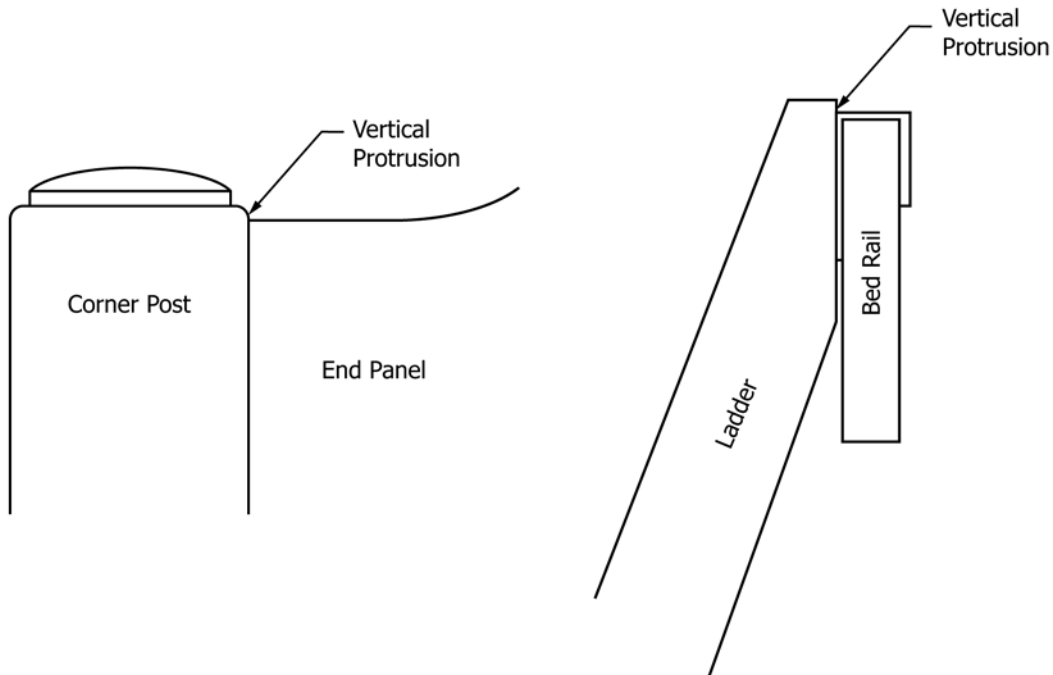
**FIG. 3 Vertical Protrusions**

4.3 *Mattress and Foundation Size and Fit (Top Bed)*—There shall be no gaps between the interior bed structure and the edges of the mattress and foundation that will permit complete passage of the wedge block shown in Fig. 5 when tested in accordance with 5.2.

4.4 *Mattress Size and Fit (Lower Foundation)*—There shall be no space, between the edge of the manufacturer’s recommended mattress and the interior boundary of any component(s) attached to lower bunk (for example, ladders, book shelves, desk), greater than 1.88 in. (48 mm) and smaller than 9 in. (229 mm), when tested in accordance with 5.3.

**4.5 Upper and Lower Foundation Support Systems:**

4.5.1 The foundation support systems shall confine the horizontal position of the mattress and the foundation and shall



**FIG. 2 Examples of Vertical Protrusions**