

# INCIDENT INVESTIGATION ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

## Infant Bathing Product FATAL Submersions/Drownings

DOCUMENT NUMBER:

DATE OF INCIDENT:

CATID: TYNN26 2020

FOLLOW-UP REQUESTED

HAZARD ANALYSIS  COMPLIANCE

PRIMARY CONTACT: Ted Yang, EPHA, 301-504-7838, [tyang@cpsc.gov](mailto:tyang@cpsc.gov)

BACK-UP CONTACTS: Celestine Kish, ESHF, 301-987-2547, [ckish@cpsc.gov](mailto:ckish@cpsc.gov)

### ASSIGNMENT MESSAGE:

For fatal submersion incidents involving children 12 months and younger that occurred in bathtubs and/or infant bathing products (baby bathtubs, bath seats, bath rings, bath aides, etc.), please conduct a follow-up investigation. It is very important to obtain photos of the bath tub and any infant bathing products involved. In particular, photos or labels and product markings including manufacturer's details and date codes should be obtained. Standards have been, and are being, developed related to these infant products. Information regarding these incidents is important to address the efficacy of standards and is also needed to understand relative safety of such products in comparison to safety in a household tub.

**It is important to collect as *much information as possible* about the product(s) and incident scenario.**

The latest version of the at home submersion report can be found at:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/pdfs/nonpoolsb2012.pdf>

Below are definitions to help understand the various types of infant bathing products. Please refer to products by these classifications in the investigation.

**A. Bath seat:** A product that contains a bottom surface for sitting. It is used by an occupant who is seated upright (80-110 degrees). It provides some level of rigid support to the back, sides, and/or front. It is not intended to retain water and is not inflatable. See possible sub-categories below:

- 1) Support arm - bath seat with an arm that hooks over the side of tub for stability.
- 2) Movable side - bath seat that has movable or folding sides used for getting access to the child.

**B. Bath ring:** identical to bath seat, but with no integral seat bottom (A ring on top with columns that attach to the tub). If there is a seat bottom, it is removable and could be made of some foam type of material.

**C. Bath tub:** rigid structure intended to retain water. See possible sub-categories below:

- 1) Reclining - contains a built-in reclining side
- 2) Added support - contains something internal to the tub that provides some level of rigid support to the back, sides, and/or front.
- 3) Bucket/Pod - tub with high sides and small seating area. It is typically cylindrical in shape.

**D. Bathing aides:** Other miscellaneous devices not included above. This could include cushions (not inflatable) or other products used for bathing.

**E. Combination:** Products that can be more than one of the above such as bath seat/ baby bath tubs products where based on its position it can be either. Please be sure and note the position it was in at the time of the incident.

**F. Infant Sling:** Material that can be attached to and removed from an infant bathtub or frame for use in an infant bathtub. Typically intended for use with newborns and young infants.

**G. Infant bather:** Material attached to a frame or all one piece that can be used with an infant bathtub or directly in an adult tub or sink. It is not intended to retain water.

**H. Miscellaneous:** Specialty products intended for children with special needs.

In conducting these investigations, please use the following Guidelines:

- Bathtubs - Appendix 111
- Baby Bath Seats - Appendix 130

**Please include all primary and all backup contacts in the distribution of the completed IDI.**

----- Area below will be completed in Data Systems -----

**Person(s) to Contact:**

**Guidelines: Appendix 111 – Bathtub Incidents**  
**Appendix 130 – Baby bath seats**

**Task Number:**

**Date:**

**Assigned to:**

**Processed by: lew**