SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.09 for Home Playground Equipment

DATE OF MEETING: September 28, 1999

PLACE: ASTM Headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES

DATE OF ENTRY: October 25, 1999

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Matt Bolland, Swing-N-Slide
Paul Doppelt, PD Consulting
Chuck Fisher, Hasbro
Teri Hendy, Site Masters

Carl McKee, Rainbow Play Systems
Pat Walsh, Hedstrom
Scott Vomacka, Rainbow Play Systems

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Reports from other playground-related activities/organizations were presented. In a report from CPSC, John Preston noted that the collection of incident data in a special study of playground equipment-related incidents would be concluded in October but a report of the study would not be available until sometime in 2000. Preston also drew attention to a CPSC staff paper regarding a comparison of playground injuries occurring in 1998 with those in a 1990 CPSC report. The paper had been presented at the International Playground Safety Conference at Penn State University in August. He said that this paper concluded that there did not appear to be a significant reduction in injuries over the eight-year period. Preston also said that the on-going special study may provide more information on injury trends since it included in-depth investigations of most of the reported incidents.

The chairman announced that one negative vote had been cast in the recent subcommittee ballot. The negative voter objected to the proposed removal of the swing hanger test at 5.2.1.1. The chairman had unsuccessfully attempted to contact the negative voter a number of times to explain the rationale for this revision and request withdrawal of the negative. She will continue to try and contact him.

A discussion of a requirement for tot/toddler swings was tabled because of the absence of the person who had volunteered to draft requirements for these products.

The chairman stated that a revised standard would be published in 1999. Numerous editorial changes were suggested for this revised standard. The chairman noted that she had received an
e-mail from John Preston who drew attention to paragraph 5.1.8.2 that used “a single rope” as an example of a swing element capable of unlimited lateral motion. This conflicts with paragraph 5.9.1 that requires suspended ropes to be secured at both ends. That standard will be changed to reflect that a swing with a circular disk seat can be suspended by a single rope.

John Preston volunteered to draft a proposed requirement for the dimensions of a graspable component such as a handrail.

The next meeting of the F15.09 subcommittee will be held on February 8, 1999.