

CPSC  
3/13/97  
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Comments

**LOG OF MEETING**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of the ASTM F15.16 Subcommittee for Expandable Gates, High Chairs and Hook-On Chairs.

**DATE OF MEETING:** March 4-5, 1997

**PLACE:** Sheraton Hotel  
West Palm Beach, FL

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** John Preston, ES *JP*

**DATE OF ENTRY:** March 11, 1997

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** John Preston, ES

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Kandi Mell, JPMA	Bob Waller, JPMA
Dave Campbell, Century	Bob Craig, B & R Consulting
Tim Snyder, Fisher-Price	Kitty Pilarz, Fisher-Price
Tso Xu, ITS-RAM	James Keast, ITS RAM
Jon Robinson, Gerry Wood Products	Julie Morris, Gerry Baby Products
Chuck Zoril, Gerry Baby Products	Jim Dodds, Baby Trend
Al Kozak, ACTS Testing Labs.	Mike Krigier, Detroit Testing Laboratory
Cecil Cantey, Generation 2 Worldwide	Jeff Melone, Kolcraft
Dave Maher, The First Years	Kasey Wise, J.C. Penney
Charley Roos, Evenflo	Neal Rickmers, Evenflo
Al Farrigno, Tyco Preschool	Jerry Koziatek, Consultant
Ron Hoffman, Graco	Nate Saint, Graco
Richard Glover, Cosco	Terry Emerson, Cosco
Keith Moehring, Simmons	Jerry Drobinski, Revmark
Paul Ware, Safety 1st	Steve Gerhart, Graco
Eugen Balensiefer, Seymour Housewares	Don Currier, North States

**NOTE:** Some of the above did not attend all three meetings.

**SUMMARY OF MEETINGS:**

**EXPANDABLE GATES, 3/4/97** - A new introduction, provided by CPSC staff, was distributed. After discussion, a motion was approved to accept it as written.

There was discussion regarding how to determine conformance with the requirement at Section 5.6 for finger entrapment in tapered or irregular shaped holes. A special task group was established to resolve this issue.

In discussion on latching requirements for pressure mounted gates, it was agreed that there should be a warning on the gate stating which side should be away from the child. It was

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also agreed that Section 9.5.3 should only apply to pressure mounted gates with single action latches. In addition, several people voiced concern that there should be a requirement addressing the accessibility of a latching device mounted on the side of a gate away from a child.

Much of the balance of the meeting was spent discussing a requirement for push out force for pressure mounted gates. Tests will be conducted using a procedure for a gate horizontal force test drafted by Detroit Testing Laboratory.

It was noted that the gate and enclosure standard has to be balloted this year to be in accordance with the ASTM five year review and reauthorization requirements. It was suggested that those revisions on which the subcommittee has reached agreement should immediately be placed on a subcommittee ballot.

**HIGH CHAIRS, 3/5/97** - The entire meeting was devoted to resolution of three negative votes and numerous comments submitted in a ballot of revisions to the high chair standard, ASTM F404, that closed on 2/28/97.

One negative-vote was accompanied by a request to harmonize the requirements for finger entrapment in holes in the high chair standard with those in the ASTM F963 standard for toy safety. Since the proposed requirements in the toddler bed standard are the same as in other ASTM standards for juvenile products and there is no incident data to show that they are ineffective, the negative was ruled non-persuasive.

Another negative was cast because there is no dynamic load test in this revision of the standard. The negative vote was withdrawn when the subcommittee elected to address this omission in a separate revision of the standard. The third negative vote was accompanied by numerous comments, many of which were editorial. However, one substantive request to delete the definition of rigid material was not accepted since such a deletion would require a re-ballot of the standard. The definition will be deleted at the time of the next revision of the standard.

Discussion regarding a comment on the definition of a non-paper label resulted in a decision to address this in the next revision of the standard.

The editorial changes agreed to at this meeting will be incorporated into the standard and it will be forwarded to the ASTM Committee on Standards for final approval.

There was discussion regarding a 1/29/97 letter from Ron Medford, CPSC, that urged the completion of a requirement for a totally passive means to prevent strangulation resulting from submarining under the tray of high chairs. A special task force, established at a previous meeting, was instructed to draft a proposal for discussion at the next meeting. John Preston requested that he be included as a member of this task force.

Another task force, established to draft a dynamic test for structural integrity, will have a report that will be distributed prior to the next meeting. The report is likely to recommend a

dynamic test on a slippery floor plus a static load test.

**HOOK-ON CHAIRS, 3/5/97** - The meeting began with discussion and resolution of a negative vote and comments submitted in an ASTM F15 Main Committee ballot of revisions to the hook-on chair standard that closed on 1/3/97. The negative vote noted that the revised standard had not been previously balloted by the subcommittee. The subcommittee chairman stated that the ballot should have gone to the subcommittee only and after resolving the comments received in response to the F15 committee ballot it would be re-balloted by that committee.

Most of the comments were editorial in nature and many were accepted. The standard as revised at this meeting will be forwarded to ASTM for re-ballot by the ASTM F15 Main Committee.

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