SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM F15.09 (Home Playground Equipment), F15.29 (Public Playground Equipment), and F15.61 (Constant air inflatable play devices for home use)

DATE OF MEETING: 17-19 May 2011

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Hope E. J. Nesteruk, ESHF

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: XX 2011

LOCATION: Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, CA

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Hope E.J. Nesteruk, ESHF

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact ASTM for attendee list

SUMMARY OF MEETING:
F15.09 - Home Playgrounds (17 May 2011)
The chair of F15.44, play equipment for children under 2, reported that the F15.44 subcommittee met on 16 May (CPSC staff was unable to attend) to address several negative votes on a ballot and to discuss breaking the standard into one for outdoor equipment and one for indoor equipment. The subcommittee decided not to proceed with dividing the standard into two.
An announcement was made that the National Wildlife Foundation has begun work to develop a standard for natural play areas.

CPSC staff updated the subcommittee on the status of the Home Playground Safety Handbook (pub. 324), which received a minor update to include the October 2009 safety alert regarding the standard's 2009 update to disallow swings hanging from overhead ladders. Previously, this safety alert was printed and stuffed into every print copy of 324 that was sent out, but as it was time for a reprint of the document, EXPA decided to incorporate the safety alert into the document.

Several outstanding negative votes on ballots were discussed. The negative on WK25039, changing the definition of a completely bounded non-rigid opening, was withdrawn. Discussions about the negatives on WK30430, requiring partial compliance to ANSI Z535.4 for warning labels, resulting in the ballot being withdrawn with plans to rebalot for full compliances with ANSI Z535.4, as it was discovered that ANSI Z535.4 had allowances for tone-on-tone warnings.

Correspondence to the subcommittee chair asked if the subcommittee would be willing to address backyard "zip lines." The subcommittee felt these were home playground equipment.

Two working groups were formed to (1) look at the neoprene rod required in section 4.1.6 and how it difference from the rod used for a similar test in the toy standard and (2) look into modifying the "do not use when wet" warning to address inclement weather rather than water.

F08.30 - Task group on outdoor public-use fitness equipment (17 May 2011)
A new task group was formed in 17 May 2011 to develop a new standard for outdoor, public-use fitness equipment. This is an emerging area that includes moving fitness equipment, such as elliptical machines, placed in parks and recreation areas and intended for adults and youth over age 13. CPSC staff attended the organization meeting to observe. The task group request injury data from CPSC on such equipment and request CPSC staff involvement with the development of this standard. Staff agreed to pass the data request to Epidemiology.

The task group included both participants in the meeting room, a group from China that had developed a standard for such equipment, and a translator. The chair stated that China's, document (GB19272), is "a very good working document for fitness product standards." This standard was started in 2003, finalized in 2004, and is in need of updating. The group from China wishes to work with the ASTM task group to develop the ASTM standard. Initial agreement among the task group was that the scope will specify this standard is for equipment intended for public-use (non-residential) by ages 13-years-old and up
and that the intent is to prevent life-threatening and seriously debilitating injuries resulting for equipment hazards, but not sports related injuries (e.g. heart attack, overuse injuries, etc). Recognized challenges will be ensuring the equipment that is used by adults will be reasonably safe for children as young as 2-years-old due to the likely proximity to public playgrounds.

F15.29 - Public Playgrounds (18 May 2011)
The subcommittee met briefly in the morning to discuss general business (approval of minutes, agenda, etc) before breaking into working groups to discuss items for the most recent ballot. CPSC staff sat with the Materials and Signage working group. The first item for discussion was the ballot to modify section 4.1.2, removing the reference to 16 CFE Part 1303 and adding a reference to CPSIA. The negative votes were all withdrawn or found to be non-persuasive due to the precedent of referencing 16 CFR 1303. The second item for discussion was the item to add required elements for a warning sign for public playgrounds. After a previous ballot, the working group withdrew a previous motion requiring specific warning language for playground signage and instead focused on the elements that should be addressed by a sign (e.g. age appropriateness, fall hazard, strangulation hazard, and burn hazard).

F15.61 - Constant Air Inflatable Devices for Home Use (19 May 2011)
The subcommittee had an abbreviated meeting as the ballot for the draft standard is still open. As of 19 May, there were no negatives on the ballot with 34.7% of ballots returned. CPSC staff raised the issue of address CPSIA rather than just the 16 CFR 1303 lead limits, and the subcommittee was agreeable to including that in the first revision. The chair asked staff to submit the request as a comment to the ballot for tracking purposes.