

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM F15.25 Subcommittee for Public
Playground Equipment

DATE OF MEETING: December 7-8, 1995 **PLACE:** ASTM Headquarters
West Conshohocken, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *J.P.*

DATE OF ENTRY: December 18, 1995

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES and Mark Kumagai, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Frances Wallach, Total Rec. Mgt.	Donna Thompson, U. of N. Iowa
Roger Amorosi, DTL	Kert Artwick, Game Time
Matt Bolland, Swing N Slide	Scott Burton, Safety Play
Betsy Ceasar, Playcare, Inc.	Monty Christiansen, Penn State
Curtis Cleveland, Playworld Syst.	Bill Duffy, NSSEA
Mike Englen, Miracle Rec.	Esther Grossman, Custom Play.
Mike Hayward, Paris	Walt Henderson, Carlisle Tire
Teri Hendy, Site Masters	Tom Williams, L.A. Steelcraft
Mary Lou Iverson, Iverson Assoc.	Tom Kalousek, Rockford Parks
Peter Kells, Children's Playgrnds	Steven King, Landscape Struc.
Ken Kutska, Wheaton Park Dist.	Tom Norquist, Game Time
Jeff Olson, Kompan	Kevin Owens, Playworld Systems
Rob Pepper, Child Works, Inc.	Daryl Rarich, Playworld Syst.
Lloyd Reese, Little Tikes	Marcie Ridenour, Temple Univ.
Elizabeth Roberts, Play Access	Jean Schappett, Woodset
Barry Segal, Leathers & Assoc.	Larry Steingraber, Burke
William Weisz, Play Environments	Bob Stluka, Miracle Rec.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

After approval of the minutes of the last meeting the chairman summarized several letters that she had received. One such letter, from Betsy Caesar, requested new requirements for playground equipment for children under 2 years of age. This request was supported by another letter, from Dr. Sue Aronson. A letter from the ASTM F15 Main Committee gave blanket authority to all subcommittees to publish any new standards as Provisional Standards. A letter from Florida included a draft standard addressing vehicular intrusion into playgrounds. Copies of this draft standard were distributed. John Preston was asked to examine CPSC data to determine if there are incidents of vehicular intrusion into playgrounds. A letter from ASTM identified members of the ASTM F15.29 subcommittee whose membership will be dropped because they have not returned the last three ballots. The chairman stated she will personally contact these members.

John Preston was asked to give a report on CPSC activities involving playground equipment. Preston informed members of a recent meeting he had with Fran Wallach, chairman of the F15.29 subcommittee to discuss certain differences between requirements in the ASTM F1487 standard and the CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety. He said that CPSC staff is willing to consider changes to the handbook to resolve these differences if there is rationale to support such changes. He said that he had promised that, by the end of January 1996, he would provide Fran with the rationale for the CPSC recommendations that differ from ASTM requirements together with a CPSC staff recommendation on which document should be changed. Preston also drew attention to a CPSC press release announcing the publication of guidelines for drawstrings on children's clothing. He noted that the guidelines had been published because an ASTM activity to develop a voluntary standard for drawstring entanglement had recently received numerous negative votes because the subcommittee responsible for development of the standard refused to include a requirement eliminating drawstrings in the neck area of children's outerwear garments. Preston said he did not know whether the ASTM drawstring subcommittee would continue its effort to develop a voluntary standard.

In a report from the ASTM playground surfacing subcommittee it was stated that they are awaiting funding for tests to be conducted to establish requirements for accessibility.

A report from the ASTM Home Playground Subcommittee stated that the scope of the ASTM F1148 standard has been changed to reduce the age of the minimum user from 2 years to 18 months. However, the subcommittee is reluctant to change the dimensions of the torso probe to reflect the smaller anthropometric dimensions of an 18 month old child. Another issue being considered by this subcommittee is an exemption from the resilient surfacing recommendations for items that are close to the ground such as certain rockers and balance beams. It was noted that the 1995 version of the F1148 standard addresses entanglement on protrusions.

A report from the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) stated that in 1996, there would be institutes for certification held in the states of Arkansas, Hawaii, Washington, New Jersey, New York, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Missouri. NPSI is also working on three video tapes concerning playground safety.

A report regarding the activities of the Access Board stated that a Regulatory Negotiation Committee was being established that would have its first meeting during February 1996.

A report from the Soft Contained Playground Equipment Subcommittee (ASTM F15.36) stated that members had met at the

CPSC and been informed by the CPSC staff that this type of playground equipment is "reasonably" safe but that staff is concerned that slides exiting into ball pits and climbing equipment located in ball pits may not be desirable and should be addressed in the forthcoming ASTM standard for this type of playground equipment being developed by the F15.36 Subcommittee.

The chairman stated that there would be no report on the activities of the CEN playground equipment committee since the CEN committee member who is also a member of the ASTM F15.29 subcommittee was unable to attend this meeting. However, she noted that the CEN committee has adopted the entrapment requirements in the ASTM F1487 standard for inclusion in the European standard.

A report from the American Association for Leisure & Recreation (AALR) included a request for help on a project at the University of Northern Iowa funded by a grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). A National Plan for Playground Safety is to be established and a request was put forward as to what people believe is important in such a plan? The project will include tests of playground surfacing materials and information was requested regarding what variables and conditions of samples should be examined.

In a report of an International Conference on Playground Safety, held at Penn State University, it was stated that the proceedings of the conference are now available and can be purchased from the NRPA.

It was announced that the National School Supply and Equipment Association (NSSEA), is no longer representing manufacturers of public playground equipment. A new organization, the Playground Equipment Manufacturer's Association (PEMA) will perform this function. In addition, PEMA will also establish third party certification programs for compliance to both ASTM F1487 and F1148.

In a report of the activities of a task group that is attempting to harmonize the ASTM F1487 standard with a Canadian standard, it was stated that a first draft of a North American Standard was completed in October 1995. The task group will have a two day meeting in Chicago in January 1996. There was discussion on the size of the torso probe in the draft standard that is based on the anthropometry of an 18 month old child and is consequently smaller than the torso probe in the ASTM F1487 standard. John Preston was asked to check CPSC incident data to determine if there has ever been an entrapment incident involving an opening less than 3.5 inches in width. It was noted that most manufacturers of public playground equipment currently have openings in railings that are 3 inches in width.

The chairman noted that the revisions to the ASTM F1487 standard were now approved and a draft of the revised standard was distributed. Members present at the meeting were asked to split up into the working groups that had drafted the revisions and proof those sections of the standard that they had revised. After proofing the draft revised standard, a number of errors were found and corrected. These will be transmitted to ASTM staff. The revised standard is expected to be published during December 1995.

The chairman summarized provisions that will be considered for addition to the ASTM F1487 standard in a future revision. These were: reorganize the provisions in the existing standard, alphabetize the order of specific items of playground equipment, consider requirements for flammability of equipment, consider the CEN test for drawstring entanglement, and add a requirement addressing swing impact injury.

A motion was approved to establish a task group, chaired by Betsy Caesar, to look at provisions for a new standard for playground equipment for children under two years of age such as may be found in child care facilities.

The materials working group was asked to consider a requirement addressing security of rungs to prevent turning. A suggestion was made for the subcommittee to consider requirements for stepping columns that are not permitted by the current standard since they would have to have guardrails.

The next two meetings of the ASTM F15.29 subcommittee will be held on March 7-8th and June 5-6th. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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