

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Sub-Committee F15.36 Soft Contained Play Equipment

DATE OF MEETING: June 4-5, 1996

PLACE: West Conshohocken, PA.

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Mark Kumagai, ESME *CKK*

DATE OF ENTRY: June 11, 1996

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Mark Kumagai, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Roger Amorosi	Chet Kagel, Playpal
Frederick Boedeker, Tenderfun	Jesse Muriango, Keiser Corp.
Michael Brickler, Playground Concepts	Kevin Owens, Playworld Systems
Michael Butkus, McDonald's Corp	Robert Pepper, Child Works
Elizabeth Caesar, Playcare	Mark Rappaport, Ball Pit Services Inc.
James Hickey, Nomaco Inc	Lloyd Reese, Iron Mountain Forge
Marc Cetrulo, Hollaender MFG CO.	Gene Routh, Playpal
Jack Gozenbach, Miracle Recreation Equipment	Kenneth Schober, Soft Play Inc.
Esther Grossman, Custom Playgrounds	Larry Steingraber, BCI Burke Co. Inc.
David Hamilton, Pentes Play	Robert Stuluka, Miracle Recreation Equipment
Mike Hayward, Paris Playground	Grant Strawcutter, Soft Play Inc.
Walter Henderson, Carlisle Tire and Rubber, ASTM F15.36 chair	Phillip Tate, Omni
Marylou Iverson, Iverson Associates	Donna Thompson, Northern Iowa Univ.
Glenn Jewell, Playsafe Inc.	Joe Velasquez, Omni
B.L. Joesten, Mobil Chemical	Jack Werder, Nomaco Inc.



Reports from other Organizations and ASTM Committees:

The minutes for the March 6-7 meeting were approved. The next meeting was scheduled for September 10-11, at ASTM headquarters, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. Mark Kumagai reported that at the end of November, the CPSC issued a press release and report on the Soft Contained Play Equipment (SCPE). Copies of the report were sent to the manufacturers and to the owner and operators through the International Association of Family Entertainment Centers. Ken Schober reported on the March meetings of the Access Board Regulatory Negotiations Committee. The committee decided not to increase membership but public participation was acceptable. Ken Schober requested ASTM members to provide information and photographs for committee to become knowledgeable of SCPE. He also requested that the Accessibility section of the draft standard be released to the committee. Mike Butkus (McDonald's) was voted to be the alternate F15.36 representative to the Access Board Regulatory Negotiations Committee.

Donna Thompson (Northern Iowa University) discussed progress of the National Program for Playground Safety. The objective of the program was to create a national plan for the prevention of playground injuries; develop a national clearinghouse of materials on playground safety; establish an information hotline about playground injury prevention available to the American public; serve as a resource for technical assistance concerning training programs for individuals. She also described a task to test and characterize all types of surfacing materials. She requested information from the F15.36 members and handed out a questionnaire for factors we think are important in surfacing impact testing.

Walt Henderson reported on developments in the ASTM subcommittee for Playground Surfacing and Public Playgrounds and the Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association. Mike Hayward reported on the North American Harmonization efforts and Betsy Ceasar reported on the ASTM working group for Play Equipment for Children Under 2.

Working Group Reports:

Accessibility and Entrapment: The working group motioned the subcommittee and passed sections describing accessibility, wheel chair turning space at transfer points, and performance requirements concerning head and neck entrapment, sharp points and protrusion hazards. The working group adopted the performance requirements section 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, of ASTM F1487-93, Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use, as they applied to SCPE. Requirements for suspended components were tabled until the next meeting.

Materials and Manufacture: The working group discussed strength requirements and tests for trolley track rides, components subjected to loads such as a deck, ramp, individual steps or ladder rungs, and enclosed components such as crawl tubes and junction boxes. The subcommittee requested the working group to clarify several sections and submit the rewritten requirements into the next minutes.

Layout/Access/Egress: The working group discussed use zone requirements for access and egress points outside of the play equipment. A common practice for SCPE is to exit from the play unit through a slide. The working group proposed to adopt slide exit use

zone requirements developed by the equipment group. The Equipment working group reported several negatives to their proposed slide exit use zone requirements and suggested that the Layout/Access/Egress working group wait until these issues are addressed.

Equipment: The working group addressed several negatives to the proposed equipment section. Mark Kumagai commented that the section restricting the use of climbing equipment in ball pools was omitted from the April letter ballot. The working group leader recognized the mistake and he intends to submit this section in the next ballot. The diameter requirements for padded rungs was changed from a maximum diameter of 2.0 to a maximum diameter of 1.55 based on rung requirements in ASTM F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.

The proposed SCPE slide exit use zone (landing area in front of the slide exit) would not be as restrictive as the requirements from the ASTM F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use. The working group proposed an area at least 4 ft. beyond the slide exit to be clear of all obstacles. Adjacent equipment or barriers would be allowed provided that they are either smooth and flat, such as an interior wall, or padded or flexible, such as safety netting. These requirements were discussed with the subcommittee and the working group concluded that the slide exit velocity of the user is the determining factor for exit use zone requirements. For example, a user exiting a "slow" slide at a near zero velocity would not require as much of a use zone (landing area) as a user exiting from a "fast" slide that requires larger landing area for the user to regain control. The working group proposed to develop slide exit velocity test and acceptance criteria to better define exit use zone requirements.

The slide exit requirements proposed to eliminate the slides entering ball pools. This was discussed by the subcommittee. A manufacturer voted negative to this restriction and said that the CPSC did not have evidence that this was a hazard. A subcommittee member stated that overlapping use-zones in the public playground standard is considered a hazard. She observed children playing in the sand in front of slides for a slide located on a sand surface. She suggested that children may also be likely to play with the ball in front of a slide located in a ball pool.

Fire Safety: The working group proposed to test the foam padding materials using the California upholstered furniture test (CA tech bulletin 117). They proposed testing the post foam and ball in the ball pool to UL1975, Fire test for plastics used for decorative purposes. These test would only apply to indoor SCPE. The working group requested suggestions to test fabric such as netting or webbing.

cc: Colin Church, EXHR
OS (2)
ES
File