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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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

DATE OF MEETING: June 17-19, 1997

PLACE: West Conshohocken, PA.

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Mark Kumagai, ESME *MK*

DATE OF ENTRY: June 26, 1997

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Mark Kumagai, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Available upon receipt of ASTM meeting minutes.

Summary of ASTM Sub-Committee F15.36 Soft Contained Play Equipment

Soft Contained Play Equipment (SCPE) meeting called to order 0830 June 17, 1997.

Correspondence: The Anne Arundel Fire Marshal office called Subcommittee chairman for information on rescue procedures inside a SCPE. He was concerned with performing a rescue of a spinal injury victim which would require maneuvering a back board inside the tubes.

The Subcommittee chairman invited him to attend this meeting to discuss the issues and concerns.

Report from other ASTM Subcommittees and other groups:

Public Playground F15.29: Many revision and harmonization issues are needed to be resolved.

Playground Equipment for Children Under 2 F15.44: The Mission Statement has been defined and the working groups have been formed

Playground Surfacing: Provisional standard addressing accessibility has been completed. The subcommittee completed an evaluation of a free falling portable surface testing device. This device uses a spherical head-form and measure impact acceleration in three axes. The device is easier to use in the field over a rail mounted device. A participant commented that test method to determine the surface performance to prevent limb fractures would be beneficial.

National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS): On June 4-7, NPPS sponsored a playground safety school at the University of Northern Iowa. The school was well received by the students and a second session is scheduled in August.



Access Board: The final meeting is scheduled for July 8, in Washington DC. Some minor issues concerning SCPE need to be resolved.

CPSC: I reported that proposed revisions to the CPSC's Handbook for Public Playground Safety was out for comment. Comments are due by June 30.

May Ballot Results: 47 ballots were returned but at least 50 are required. Subcommittee Chairman urged members to complete the ballots.

The subcommittee broke into working groups to address negatives and develop their sections.

A representative from the Anne Arundel fire department addressed the Fire Safety Group and Equipment. He was an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) developing procedures to rescue a child or adult inside a SCPE with a spinal cord injury. He was concerned with maneuvering an 18 inch wide, 6 ft. long back board through the tubes. He surveyed local fire departments for their reaction, and concluded that all would simply cut the tubes open. He was concerned that this method would weaken the structure and result in more injury to the victim and the rescuer. Several manufacturers agreed that cutting without bracing could result in structural problems. One manufacturer suggested using the steel pipe support structure as a support brace for the tubes if cutting is required. The Anne Arundel EMT concluded that the fire department should develop specially trained personnel who are knowledgeable in bracing a SCPE structure prior to cutting components. He will continue to develop the procedures and share it with the subcommittee.

June 18: Working Group Reports

Fire Safety: The working group addressed the negatives on the use of UL94HB. The subcommittee member submitting the negative did not agree that UL94HB was a sufficient test since it only tests a sample of the material, and suggested a systems approach. This negative was found non-persuasive since SCPEs are made of modular components and are different configurations, a systems test would not be practical. The UL94HB is a material test and can be applied to any component of the SCPE. A second negative was to specify the thickness of the test sample. This was found non-persuasive because thickness is specified in the standard.

The fire safety group addressed my comment that the use of UL1975 for testing ball pool balls required a defining the test specimen size and configuration. They agreed to work on this section.

The subcommittee discussed the purpose of having a fire safety section in the standard. Some members' opinions were that the local fire codes would take care of fire safety. Several members agreed that the intent of this section was to provide minimum standards to supplement local fire codes where the SCPE are installed. Members also pointed out that some codes are stricter than others, and for those locations, this section would not be as important, especially to areas that require sprinklers.

The fire safety working group will consolidate sections of the standard that addressed evacuation and letter ballot the entire section.

The Structural Integrity group addressed negatives and comments and all were found non persuasive or withdrawn. The working group decided to rewrite this section to clarify load requirements. This section was reviewed by the subcommittee and will be re-balloted.

The equipment group found negatives and comments on overlapping use zones were persuasive. The general negative was that these requirements were unclear. Also the slide use zone provisions could allow a potentially unsafe conditions of two slides only five feet directly opposite each other. The working group revised these sections to clarify that use zones directly in front of the slide exit cannot overlap. New figures and text will be re-balloted.

The subcommittee chairman instructed each working group to consolidate their section so that the draft standard could be reviewed in its entirety. This will be put in the next meeting minutes. The goal is to finish addressing negatives in the next meeting and balloting the entire standard the following meeting.

Next SCPE meeting date: Sept 16-17, 1997 at ASTM headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA.

SCPE Meeting adjourned at 1200 March 6, 1997.