

11/13/98
CPSC/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.44 for Playground Equipment for Children Under Two Years of Age

DATE OF MEETING: June 15, 1998

PLACE: ASTM Headquarters
West Conshohocken, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *JP*

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Betsy Caesar, Play Care
Teri Hendy, Site Masters
Marjorie Brickley, ITS/RAM
David Hommel, Bird In Hand Woodworks
Marcia Rogers, Consumer
Marzy Sykes, Consumer
Dana Wisner, Community Playthings

Robert Keller, Robert Keller Assoc. Inc.
Fran Wallach, Total Recreation
Mike Mullins, Children's Factory
Pat Benvenuto, Cerebral Palsey Assoc.
Beth Roberts, Play Access
Kert Artwick, Game Time
Esther Grossman, Children First of MD

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The chairman stated that she had written a letter to CPSC regarding an additional study to determine safety requirements for playground surfacing for children under two years of age. She said that a response letter, from John Preston, pointed out that the original CPSC surfacing recommendations took into account the vulnerability of young children and are more stringent than any other requirements addressing head injury (e.g. protective helmets for various recreational activities).

Reports were given from other organizations involved in playground safety. In a report from CPSC, John Preston stated that a special study of playground injuries will begin in FY 1999 and be published in the year 2000. Preston also mentioned that a recent report released jointly by U.S. PIRG and CFA (fourth nationwide survey) noted some improvement over previous surveys.

Videotapes of children using see saws and slides were shown. Some of these were soft inflatable products that displayed some problems such as a slide with too high a friction coefficient that prevented children from sliding.

The subcommittee broke into two task groups for Equipment and Performance and, upon reconvening as a full subcommittee, they gave reports of their deliberations.

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The performance task group stated that they had discussed a motion for the definition of "accessible" that would soon be presented to the full subcommittee. The task group had also discussed requirements for the size of holes that would be a finger or toe entrapment hazard and also had discussed requirements for head entrapment hazards.

The equipment task group reported that they had explored issues involving children under 2 years of age pertaining to access/egress, guardrails and barriers, platforms and transition areas, slides, moving components i.e. swings and clatter bridges, stability and equipment that would not be appropriate for children under 2 years of age.

The next meeting of the F15.44 subcommittee will be held on Monday, October 26 at ASTM Headquarters in West Conshohocken.

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