

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
LOG OF MEETING

CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

1999 OCT 25 P 2:19

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

DATE OF MEETING: September 27, 1999 **PLACE:** ASTM Headquarters,
West Conshohocken, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES JPF

DATE OF ENTRY: October 25, 1999

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Marjorie Brickley, Consumer
Betsy Caesar, Play Care
Paul Doppelt, PD Consulting
Chuck Fisher, Hasbro

Mike Mullens, Children's Factory
Marcia Rogers, Consumer
Fran Wallach, Total Recreation

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

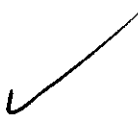
Reports were given regarding other playground safety activities. Fran Wallach noted that Kevin McKenzie, CSA had prepared a comparison of the requirements in the Canadian, European and ASTM standards for public playground equipment. She noted that this document may be used as a starting point for the development of an ISO standard for playground equipment. She said that such an activity requires a minimum of five countries to participate before it can begin but she noted that more than five countries have already expressed an interest in ISO standard.

Another new activity may be the formation of an ASTM subcommittee to develop a standard for water play equipment. As a first step, a definition of such equipment is needed.

There was discussion on tests that ITS had offered to conduct to determine the ability of children under two years to negotiate steps of varying riser height. The ITS representative, who did not attend this meeting, has been otherwise occupied and the tests had to be postponed. It was suggested that Dr. Lou Bowers at the University of Florida be contacted and asked if he would be willing to perform these tests. Requirements for step height were temporarily put on hold.

There was discussion on the maximum height of a platform before it would be required to have a guardrail or barrier. This was not resolved. There was also discussion on the difference between a toy and a piece of playground equipment. This included fixed base versus

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moveable by an adult versus moveable by a child. A consumer volunteered to draft a definition based on the F1487 standard. John Preston was asked to check the draft ISO toy standard to determine if it addresses slides and swings.

In a discussion of overall maximum height of equipment, it was noted that the CEN standard has a 1 meter maximum height requirement.

The meeting broke into working groups and the Materials working group drafted requirements for Materials of Manufacture based on the F1487 section on materials together with requirements for heavy metals taken from the ASTM F963 toy standard.

In a discussion on requirements for entrapment it was noted that the hip depth and hip breadth of the minimum users (3-4 month olds) were respectively, 2.58" and 4.66".

In a discussion of handrails on stairways it was questioned whether these dimensions should be based on a child's grip (between 0.63" and 1.77") or grasp (≤ 2.36 "). There was also discussion on whether stairways should have barriers in addition to handrails.

The next meeting of the F15.44 subcommittee was scheduled for February 9, 2000.

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