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LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: ASTM Subcommittee Meetings on Playground Equipment for: Public Use, Home Use, Children Under Age 2 Years, and Aquatic Environments

DATE OF MEETING: September 25-28, 2000

PERSON SUBMITTING LOG: Scott Heh - ESME *[Signature]*

LOCATION: ASTM Headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA

CPSC ATTENDEES: Scott Heh - ESME

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Available upon receipt of ASTM meeting minutes.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS:

Public Playground Equipment – F15.29

It was announced that the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board has not yet published a final rule on accessibility guidelines for facilities and play areas. The final rule is expected to be published shortly.

CPSC staff submitted comments to a subcommittee ballot that concerned the calculation of critical fall height on overhead event types of play equipment. The subcommittee found the CPSC comments persuasive and agreed to make changes according to the CPSC staff suggestion before the items move forward to a full Committee level ballot.

The Falls Task Group is working on new provisions for 'stepping forms' equipment. This equipment is not currently addressed in the standard.

The Entrapment Task group is working on a provision to test gaps for entanglement potential with a 'toggle tester'.

The Accessibility and Use Zone Task Group was assigned to work on developing more specific use zone requirements for pieces of equipment on composite play structures.

The Subcommittee discussed whether to propose a change to the use zone provision at the exit of a slide. Many members believed that the calculation for the extent of the use zone should be less complicated and that the current provision requires an unnecessarily large use zone for higher slides. They voted to submit a revised slide use zone calculation as a new subcommittee ballot item.



Home Playground Equipment - F15.09

The Subcommittee worked on a revision to allow climbing ropes on ramps if the rope is anchored along the ramp no greater than 1.5 inches above the protective surfacing. Test methods and equipment were discussed for future new provisions for tot swings on stability and restraint.

I briefed the Subcommittee on outstanding issues remaining on a petition to the Consumer Product Safety Commission to make mandatory safety requirements for home playground equipment. The Subcommittee members felt that revisions in the home playground standard over the last two years had addressed all but one issue in the petition. The exception is a request by the petitioner to ban play sets with swing seats made of hard and heavy material capable of inflicting a serious injury to a child. The Home Playground standard already has provisions to address impact injury with unoccupied single-occupancy swings. Multiple-occupancy swings are not required to meet impact requirements. The Subcommittee members indicated that they are not aware of data that shows impact injuries with multiple-occupancy swings to be an issue. They felt that when injuries do occur, they most likely occur with occupied multiple-occupancy swings. They contend that it is not possible for occupied swings, whether multiple-occupancy or single-occupancy, to meet impact requirements.

Under 2 - F15.44

The Subcommittee watched a video of an observational study of children under age 2 years using indoor play equipment with stairs. The purpose of the study was to examine the affect of riser height, tread depth, and handrail position on child's ability to climb stairs. The Subcommittee divided into work group meetings on (1) Equipment, (2) Falls and Equipment Layout, (3) Materials and Manufacture Performance Requirements, and (4) Definitions. Work group 3 completed drafting certain sections, including provisions addressing sharp points, protrusions, and entanglement hazards. These will be placed on the next Subcommittee ballot.

Aquatic Play Equipment

For now, there is no official subcommittee designation for this group. The task group is made up of interested members from the other playground subcommittees. The task group formulated a proposed scope for standard development work. The scope will include aquatic play equipment in public use facilities, but will exempt amusement rides and devices. The task group put together a list of issues for consideration in developing a new standard. The items on this list include, water depth, corrosion resistant materials, surfacing, water purification, access and egress, and water jet pressure. The task group leader, Mary Lou Iverson, planned on sharing the newly developed scope and issue list in an upcoming meeting of the ASTM Committee on Amusement Parks Rides and Devices.

Cc
Colin Church, EXHR
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