

CPSA & ESME cleared
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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meetings of Nine Sections of ASTM Subcommittee F15.40
for Juvenile Products

DATES OF MEETINGS: 2/28/94 - 3/2/94 **PLACE:** Buena Vista Palace
Hotel, Lake
Buena Vista, FL

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ESME JPP

DATE OF ENTRY: March 11, 1994

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ESME
Barbara Jacobson, HSPS (Walkers only)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Available upon receipt of official
meeting minutes at a later date.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS:

Cribs - Subcommittee ballot of new standard for non-full-size cribs closed on 3/6/94. At the time of the 2/28/94 crib task group meeting, no negatives had been submitted. One affirmative ballot was accompanied by many suggested changes all of which were discussed and resolved at the meeting. A special subcommittee was formed to attempt to draft a requirement to address collapse of mesh cribs/playpens that have a rotating latch on top rails, similar to two products that were the subject of CPSC recalls.

Strollers - An ASTM F15 Committee Ballot of a revision to the carriage and stroller standard to address the hazard of entrapment/strangulation in leg openings closed on 2/11/94. One negative vote and several comments pointed out that stroller manufacturers could meet the proposed requirement by supplying a detachable boot with the stroller. CPSC staff and other consumer members of the stroller task group do not believe a detachable device, such as a boot, is an acceptable remedy to the leg opening problem. A special subcommittee was established to rewrite the entrapment requirement. An interim meeting may be scheduled in June to discuss this revision.

A CPSC staff proposal for a secondary latch on umbrella stroller locking mechanisms was accepted with some changes. Another proposal to address forwards excursion of restrained occupants was discussed and will be balloted at the September 1994 meeting.



Portable Hook-On Chairs - Computer printouts of incident data were provided by CPSC staff and showed very few incident reports associated with portable hook-on chairs. Most of the meeting was devoted to a review of editorial changes proposed for the existing standard as part of its five year review and reauthorization.

Play Yards - There was more discussion regarding a requirement to address collapse of play yards/mesh cribs with rotating latches. John Preston was asked to provide purged IDI reports concerning collapse incidents to the task group chairman and to provide a summary of these incidents for distribution to all task group members. Preston was also asked to provide an updated introduction for the standard.

High Chairs - A draft of a revised high chair standard was distributed and members were requested to provide any comments to the chairman by 4/1/94. Copies of a CPSC staff summary containing descriptions of 17 high chairs involved in submarining fatalities were handed out. There was discussion regarding provisions to address such incidents that had been drafted by a manufacturer. The suggested provisions would require a restraining system in which the waist belt cannot be fastened unless the crotch strap is also fastened or the high chair must have a passive restraining system. There was also discussion regarding the stability requirements in the current standard. Canada is considering adopting overturning requirements in a CEN standard.

Toddler Beds - A second draft of a toddler bed standard incorporating both CPSC staff suggested provisions and those from a manufacturer's in-house standard was discussed. Some significant changes that were suggested by members at the meeting were to make guardrails optional, and to permit large openings in bed end structures that would not present an entrapment hazard but could allow an occupant to freely pass through. It was believed that beds low to the ground, do not need guardrails. It was also agreed that toddler beds should conform to the requirements in the voluntary standard for crib corner posts, ASTM F966.

Walkers - Barbara Jacobson summarized preliminary results of the CPSC special study of walker incidents. A draft of a revised walker standard was reviewed. The revisions incorporated recommendations from an Ad Hoc committee that are intended to harmonize similar requirements in voluntary standards for different juvenile products. There was discussion regarding the possible choking hazard of plastic labels that can only be removed in small pieces. CPSC staff will be sent examples of such labels with a request for an assessment of their hazard.

Baby Gates - A CPSC staff memo regarding incidents in which gates

had been dislodged from openings by children was discussed. A representative of Health Canada stated that he believed the ASTM standard was weak in addressing the security of a gate installed in an opening. It was agreed that there should be a warning on a gate stating "Before each use, check security of gate in opening." There was also discussion on whether age or child's weight is the most appropriate to specify the maximum user that can be expected to be secured by a gate. John Preston was asked to check the dimensions of Template 'A' (used to restrict the size of openings in gates) against the most recent anthropometric data of children's head sizes.

Infant Bedding & Related Accessories - There was considerable discussion regarding the 7 inch maximum length proposed for bumper pad ties. One manufacturer alleged that 7 inch ties could not be tied in a bow when placed around the corner posts of many cribs. The same manufacturer also claimed that the absence of a requirement to have bumper pad ties on both the top and bottom edge of the bumpers together with no requirement for backtacking on the bias binding could result in a hazardous product conforming to the standard as it is currently proposed. The CPSC staff representative was asked to provide information to determine if bumper pads have a problem with splitting and presenting a choking hazard on the filler material. It was noted that the current draft standard does not address crib canopy drapes. There was considerable discussion regarding the language for warning labels on crib bumpers, wallhangings, pillows and diaper stackers.

Attachment

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