

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM F15.09 Subcommittee for Home Playground Equipment

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 1994

PLACE: ASTM Headquarters,
Philadelphia, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Scott Heh, ESME *SH*

DATE OF ENTRY: March 8, 1994

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Scott Heh-ESME,

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Available upon receipt of meeting minutes

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The meeting was devoted to addressing issues raised by CPSC staff for subcommittee consideration. The majority of these issues came from the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs petition requesting the CPSC to develop a mandatory standard for home playground equipment. I briefly described the Commission procedures for responding to a petition and the type of information that would be included in the staff briefing package on the petition.

Subcommittee members stated that if the CPSC studies industry conformance to the ASTM standard, it is suggested that the study be based on the 1991 revision rather than the 1993 revision of the standard. Their rationale was that there is always some lag time for products on the market to meet requirements of a new revision to the standard.

The subcommittee agreed to hold off on examining the need for impact requirements for multiple-occupancy swings until CPSC completes their study on swing impact incidents.

A swing hanger test proposed by CPSC staff to replace the current test procedure raised some testing issues regarding different types of bearing configurations connected to the support beam. The subcommittee generally agreed with the concept. Two members will contact J. Preston to discuss the testing issues raised.

The subcommittee agreed to examine the issue of requiring anchoring of backyard play equipment. Two manufacturers will test swing sets to examine the need for revising the swing set stability test. The Subcommittee Chair will contact manufacturers of plastic, portable type of equipment to address the issue of anchoring climbers and other types of equipment.

choking on balloons, there were very few choking incidents on toys. The industry spokesman requested incident data to compare bucket drownings to choking on toys. Preston stated he would forward the requested data.

There was further discussion by industry representatives regarding the shortcomings of a bucket performance standard. It was stated that buckets meeting ASTM performance requirements would not meet requirements of DOT, UN, EPA, and OSHA. It was also stated that users of the products in five gallon buckets require stability and a change in the dimensions of such buckets would require a change in the size of commercial paint brushes that are currently sized to fit these buckets. One bucket manufacturer said that legislation that would dictate 3½ gallon buckets would be welcomed by manufacturers since they would sell many more buckets.

Copies of a bill proposing an amendment to the labeling requirements for five gallon buckets in the State of California were distributed. The proposed amendment would exempt manufacturers from the labeling requirement if their products were to be used solely for wholesale distribution. Bucket manufacturers at the meeting were generally opposed to the proposed amendment. In discussion on the California requirement for bucket labels, it was stated that the California Firefighters Association is opposed to the use of a single label containing the warning in both the English and Spanish language.

Copies of a bucket bill proposed in the State of New York were also distributed. It was noted that those who drafted this bill were unaware of the ANSI standard for product safety signs and symbols, ANSI Z535.4.

It was announced that the television show "Crusaders" will feature a segment on bucket drownings on March 26th. Also, the television show "20/20" is interested in doing a similar story.

The next meeting of the F15.31 subcommittee was scheduled for June 13th and will be held at the CPSC Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland.

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The next meetings will be held in Philadelphia on June 15, 1994 from 9:00 am to 5 pm, followed by Sept. 28, 1994 and Jan. 11, 1995.

cc: John Preston, ESME
Jean Kennedy, CECA
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Manon Boudreault, EPHA
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