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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES
CPSA 4-11-1998
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.29 for Playground Equipment for Public Use

DATE OF MEETING: March 4-5, 1998

PLACE: Adams Mark Hotel
Orlando, Florida

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *JP*

DATE OF ENTRY: March 17, 1998

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES, Mark Kumagai, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Roger Amorosi, DTL	Esther Grossman, Custom Playgrounds
Kert Artwick, Game Time	James Druck, Playground Environments
Jay Blanke, Sportsplay	Paul Hogan, Playground Clearing House
Matt Bolland, Swing N Slide	May Lou Iverson, Iverson Associates
Scott Burton, Safety Play	Tom Norquist, Game Time
Betsy Caesar, Playcare	Mary Hill, Health Canada
Curtis Cleveland, Playworld	Robert Pepper, Childworks
Bill Duffy, NSSEA	Darryl Rarich, Playworld Systems
Jack Gonzenbach, Miracle	Lloyd Reese, Little Tikes
Mike Hayward, Little Tikes	Paul Danforth, Kompan
David Dick, ACTS Testing Labs.	Larry Steingraber, BCI Burke Co.
Walt Henderson, Carlisle Tire & Wheel	Bob Stluka, Miracle Recreation
Teresa Hendy, Site Masters	Donna Thompson, Univ. of N. Iowa
Tom Williams, L.A. Steelcraft	Frances Wallach, Total Recreation
Ted Illges, Woodcarpet	William Weisz, Playground Environments
John Spurny, John Spurny, Inc.	Bryan Belair, Belair Recreation Products
Jesse Maningo, Keiser Corp.	Wesley Sutton, Game Time
Bill Pencille, Playground Concepts	Nina Payne, Howell Equipment
Steven King, Lanscape Structures	Mike Krygier, DTL
Arthur Mittelstaedt,	Elaine Sherman, Parity, Inc.
Beth Roberts, Play Access	

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Reports from other playground committees were as follows:

ASTM F08.63, Playground Surfacing - A subcommittee meeting was held on February 27 and some changes were made to a proposal to include a free-fall test instrument in the ASTM



F1292 playground surfacing standard. This will be sent out for ballot and a ballot to approve the accessibility standard, ASTM PS83, as a full consensus standard is also expected during the next month.

ASTM F15.09, Home Playground Equipment - The subcommittee met on 3/3/98 and resolved a single negative vote cast in a ballot of revisions to the ASTM F1148 standard. The subcommittee created a memory sheet listing items that were formerly deferred but will be discussed and resolved at future meetings.

National Playground Safety Institute - There will be 31 workshops for certification as playground safety inspectors during 1998.

ASTM F15.36, Soft Contained Playground Equipment - Pending the results of a ballot to uphold the resolution of negative votes cast in a 2/28/98 ballot, the new standard is completed. There may be no June meeting of this subcommittee.

Accessibility - An NPR in the Federal Register regarding playground accessibility requirements is expected in the next week or two. A final rule is not expected to be published until at least a year from now.

CPSC Report - John Preston reported that the Handbook for Public Playground Safety that was released in October 1997 was found to contain several errors. A corrected handbook was released in January 1998 and Preston showed how to differentiate between the October 1997 and January 1998 handbooks. He offered to mail copies of the January 1998 handbook to anyone who had not received it.

National Program for Playground Safety - A National Playground Safety Day has been established for April 30, 1998. Four state governors are supporting this event and four more are expected to support it. A playground safety training course will be offered at the University of Northern Iowa three times during the summer. A survey of playground equipment in every state will be performed during 1998. A report on tests performed on playground surfacing materials is expected to be released in April.

IPEMA - Sixteen manufacturers have been certified to be in conformance with ASTM F1487. A list of these manufacturers can be obtained from the IPEMA website. A certification program for playground surfacing materials is being developed.

Playground Equipment for Children Under 2 Years - Are about to start writing a standard that will follow the format of ASTM F1487.

Fencing - A fourth draft of an ASTM standard for fencing is anticipated to be completed in May. It will address fencing for playgrounds near highways and those that are remote from highways.

CSA Playground Standard - A standard is on a ballot that closes on 3/12/98. The standard includes a string entanglement test that is similar to the one in a CEN standard.

The chairman noted that there were four items on an F15 main committee ballot that closed on 2/23/98. Items 1 & 2 received no negative votes and Items 3 & 4 each received 3 negatives. A subcommittee ballot of revisions to the section on track rides received one negative vote. Negatives will be resolved by the appropriate working groups.

A proposal to reduce the length of the transition area at the top of slides was distributed and a video of children using slides was shown. The video showed that children do not require a slide transition platform that is 22 inches in length. The chairman suggested that the proposal should be discussed in the working group that developed the requirements for slides and the group's recommendation could then be balloted by all subcommittee members attending this meeting. Following are changes to the F1487 standard that were approved at the meeting.

Add new paragraph in Section 8.5.4 to state that the slope of curved slides should be determined by measuring the length of the slide chute and difference in height between entrance and exit.

In 8.3.2, delete "where access and egress are provided by means of rungs."

Add a new provision at 8.2.3 to address falls onto bars in climbers that have a vertical spacing of over 18 inches.

Add a new paragraph to 8.3 to state that platforms or rungs providing access to upper body equipment should be at the same height at either end of the equipment.

Add new provision in Section 7.1 to state that rungs in rung ladders should not turn.

Add a new paragraph at 9.8.4 to state that overhead obstruction in use zones shall not be less than 7 feet above the play structure and overhead power lines must observe the clearances required by local codes.

Add exemptions from the pinch, crush and shear point requirements in 6.4 for tire swing to top beam, abacus beads and other similar lightweight items.

Add new paragraph 10.2.2.4(4) stating that openings that are exempt from the 15 inch maximum width requirement shall have a means to prevent wheelchair egress.

A negative vote cast in the subcommittee ballot of revisions to the section on track rides was found to be persuasive. The word "level" will be deleted from 8.13 and a new paragraph at 8.13.9 will state "Track rides shall be level to within ± 1 degree."

Add to 8.13.2 that the handgripping components of track rides shall have a diameter of between 0.95 and 1.55 inches and add the word "protective" in front of "surfacing."

The 55° angle requirement in 6.1.3 was deleted and will be replaced by a test using the 'A' section of the "fish" probe (Fig A1.6a).

In the Section 12, regarding structural integrity, the statement "within a period of 1 minute" was removed. It is not possible to conform to this requirement.

In Section 12.4, add "for a component that is a designated play surface."

At 12.5.3, add an exemption for ground based play events from the lateral load requirements.

In 12.5.2, change " $F(N) = 69L$ " to " $F(N) = 21.9L$."

In 12.4.1.1, change the estimated number of users from " $n = L/41$ " to " $n = L/410$."

Add a note to Fig. A1.20 stating that weights are to be placed on the slide chute between the supports.

A 1997 ballot of revisions to the section on slides resulted in many negatives. The access/egress/slides working group recommended that the revision be withdrawn. Changes will be made and it will be rebaloted. The changes will be made to the section and sent to the chairman in no more than 2 weeks.

In 7.2.2.2, ground anchors for flexible climbers will be required to be "beneath the base of the protective surfacing." This language is consistent with the 1997 CPSC handbook.

The cord length on toy telephones will be required to be no more than 7 inches to be consistent with other ASTM standards for juvenile products.

Add to 8.2.1 and 8.3.2, "rungs shall not twist or turn about their own axes."

Add new paragraph 5.2 to state that playground equipment for a specific age group should have all play activities meeting requirements for that age group."

The length of slide transition platforms at 8.5.2.2 was changed from 22 inches to 14 inches.

The next F15.29 subcommittee meeting will be held at ASTM Headquarters in West Conshohocken on June 17 (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and June 18 (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

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