

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.30 for Bunk Beds

1999 MAR 29 A 8: 5'

DATE OF MEETING: March 24, 1999

PLACE: Marriott Motel
Greensboro, NC, Airport

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *JP*

DATE OF ENTRY: March 26 1999

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Russell Batson, AFMA
Bohdan Brodycz, Fashion Bed Group
David Burkhart, Thomasville Furniture
Billy Chitwood, Bassett Furniture
Mary Ellen Fise, CFA
Danny Hodges, Bassett Furniture
Geoffrey Jackson, Vermont Precision
Mark James, Lea Industries
Jed Johnsrud, Cargo Furniture
Tom Josam, This End Up Furniture
Les Killian, Broyhill Furniture
Michael Krygier, Detroit Testing Lab.
Keith Leazer, Pine Valley/Ethan Allen
Tom Lowery, Ethan Allen

David Macintosh, Powell Co.
Karon Matkins, Diversified Testing Lab.
Greg Meimar, Dorel Industries
Ken Midriff, This End Up Furniture
Kevin Minarz, Pallister Furniture
Robert Monaghan, Global Furniture
Sonny Morgan, Barn Door Furniture
Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Lab.
Bob Smith, Stanley Furniture
Bill Suvak, Child Craft
John Turbeyfill, Vaughan Furniture
Mark Woohams, Woodcrest
Joe Ziolkowski, AFMAe

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

After a self introduction of the attendees, Joe Ziolkowski, the subcommittee chairman, stated that the main purpose of the meeting was to consider four revisions to the ASTM standard for bunk beds that, if approved would make the requirements addressing entrapment identical to those that were in a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) drafted by the U.S. CPSC staff and published in the Federal Register on March 3, 1999. Copies of the NPR were distributed together with copies of the specific revisions to the ASTM standard that would make it the same as the CPSC proposed requirements. These had been drafted by John Preston who explained why the CPSC staff's proposed rule differed somewhat from the entrapment requirements in the ASTM standard.

The first item of discussion was the suggested revisions to 3.1.5 and 4.5.1 that would reduce the height from 35 inches to 30 inches above which a bed would be considered to be in the scope of the standard. There was no opposition to this revision and it was approved unanimously.



The second item was the revisions of 4.5.1.1, 4.5.1.2 and 4.5.5 concerning a requirement for a continuous guardrail on the wall-side of a bunk bed. While there was no opposition to this suggested revision, manufacturers stated that the word "continuous" needed to be defined. After much discussion the following language was drafted for 4.5.5:

"One guardrail may terminate before reaching the bed end structure, providing there is no more than 15 in. (380 mm) between either end of the guardrail and the bed end structures. The second guardrail may terminate before reaching the bed end structure. If this guardrail terminates before reaching the bed end structure, there shall be no more than 1.5 in. nor less than 0.5 in. between either end of the guardrail and the bed end structure when measured horizontally from the point on the guardrail closest to the bed end structure."

A change to the instructions at 7.3.5 was also proposed. This would add the following statement:

"If the bed is placed against a wall, the long guardrail must be on the wall-side of the bed to prevent entrapment between the bed and the wall."

A motion to approve these revisions carried with nine affirmatives and one abstention.

There was considerable discussion on the CPSC staff proposed revision of 4.6.3 addressing entrapment in end structures below the level of the upper bunk foundation. Some manufacturers were opposed to this revision because they claimed that it would require changes to some bunk beds that they did not believe were hazardous. Generally, the manufacturer members of the subcommittee agreed that some changes should be made to 4.6.3 but there was no agreement on what these changes should be.

There was a brief discussion of the deletion of 1.4 that, if approved, would include institutional beds within the scope of the ASTM standard. It was suggested that a requirement for a warning label on institutional beds might be appropriate. Such a label could state "Not intended for use by children." There was not enough time to resolve this proposed revision.

Before adjourning the meeting, it was agreed that another meeting would be held on April 21, beginning at 1:00 p.m., to attempt to resolve issues on revisions of 1.4 and 4.6.3

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Proposed Revisions to ASTM Standard Specification for Bunk Beds, ASTM F1427-96

Following are proposed revisions to the subject ASTM bunk bed standard that, if approved, would make the requirements addressing entrapment the same as those in a notice of proposed rulemaking drafted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Deletions of existing requirements are shown as ~~strike-outs~~ and additions are double underlined.

~~1.4 This consumer safety specification does not address bunk beds for institutional use (for example, in prisons, military facilities, dormitories, and so forth).~~

3.1.5 *bunk bed, n* - for the purpose of this specification, any bed in which the underside of the foundation is ~~35 in. (890 mm)~~ 30 in. (760 mm) from the floor.

4.5.1 Two guardrails shall accompany any bed in which the underside of the foundation is ~~35 in. (890 mm)~~ 30 in. (760 mm) from the floor. Guardrails may be separate from or integral with the ladder.

4.5.1.1 One guardrail shall be continuous between each of the bed's end structures. The other guardrail may terminate before reaching the bed's end structures, providing there is no more than 15 inches (380 mm) between either end of the guardrail and the nearest bed end structures.

4.5.1.2 For bunk beds designed to have a ladder attached to one side of the bed, the continuous guardrail shall be on the other side of the bed.

~~4.5.5 A guardrail may terminate before reaching the bed end structure, providing there is no more than 15 in. (380 mm) between either end of the guardrail and the bed end structures in the same plane.~~

4.6.3 When tested in accordance with 5.6.2, there shall be no openings in the end structures ~~of the lower bunk~~ between the underside of the foundation of the upper bunk and upper side of the foundation of the lower bunk that will permit the free passage of the wedge block shown in Fig. 1, unless ~~they~~ the openings are also large enough to permit the free passage of a 9-inch (230-mm) diameter rigid sphere. ~~This requirement does not apply to openings that are below the level of the lower bunk foundation support system or above a level that is 9.0 in. (230 mm) above the sleeping surface of the maximum thickness mattress and foundation combined as recommended by the manufacturer.~~