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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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

DATE OF MEETING: April 21, 1999

PLACE: Airport Marriott
Greensboro, NC

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *John Preston*

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Russell Batson, AFMA
Brodyz Bohdan, Fashion Bed Group
David Bukhart, Thomasville Furniture
Jim Cameron, This End Up Furniture
Will Johnson, Butler Woodcrafters
Less Killian, Broyhill Furniture
Michael Krygier, Detroit Testing Lab.
David MacIntosh, Powell Co.

Karon Matkins, Diversified Testing Lab
Kevin Minarz, Pallister Furniture
Wade Peele, This End Up Furniture
Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Lab.
William Suvak, Childcraft
John Turbyfill, Vaughan Furniture
Joe Ziolkowski, AFMA

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was to continue an effort, begun at a 3/24/99 meeting, to revise the ASTM F1427 voluntary standard for bunk beds to make its entrapment provisions the same as those in a CPSC notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) published in the Federal Register on 3/3/99.

After making several changes to the minutes of the 3/24/99 meeting, a motion was approved to accept them. The chairman then read a letter from AFMA that had been sent to CPSC as a comment to the NPR.

An issue that was not resolved at the last meeting concerned changing the scope of the ASTM standard to include beds intended for institutional use. After discussion on this issue, which noted that a 4/8/99 letter to Chairman Ziolkowski from John Preston stated that the Commission had not yet made a decision on including institutional beds in a rule, a motion was approved to leave the exemption for institutional beds in paragraph 1.4 of the ASTM standard.

At the previous meeting, the subcommittee approved a provision requiring the wall-side guardrail to terminate not more than 1.5 inches but not less than 0.5 inch from the end structures. After discussion, a new motion was approved to remove the "not less than 0.5 inch" requirement. Paragraph 4.5.5 of the ASTM standard will now read as follows:

"4.5.5 One guardrail may terminate before reaching the bed end structure provided there is no more than 15 in. (380 mm) between either end of the guardrail and the bed end structure when measured at a point 5 in. (127 mm) above the sleeping surface as established by the maximum

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mattress thickness specified by the manufacturer. 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. (38 mm) between either end of the guardrail and the bed end structure when measured horizontally between the bed end structure and the nearest point on the guardrail.”

A second issue that was not resolved at the 3/24/99 meeting concerned the change to the entrapment requirement for bed end structures below the level of the upper bunk foundation support. The CPSC proposal contains an entrapment requirement addressing the entire end structure between the upper and lower bunk foundation supports but the ASTM standard only covers that portion of the end structure between the lower bunk foundation support and a location 9 inches above the sleeping surface of the lower bunk mattress.

The CPSC end structure requirement attempts to address an entrapment fatality that occurred in an opening that was $3\frac{13}{16}$ " in height located immediately beneath the upper bunk foundation support. This opening would not conform to the CPSC proposed rule which requires such openings to be less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ " or greater than 9". However, during discussion on this issue, it became evident that the opening in which the fatality occurred could comply with the CPSC proposed rule (be less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ ") yet still present a neck entrapment hazard. John Preston noted that the victim had placed his head through a wide section of the opening then moved sideways toward a narrower part of the opening until his neck was between bars spaced $3\frac{13}{16}$ " apart. To prevent entry of the neck, the space between the bars would have to be sufficiently narrow to prevent entry of the neck which is significantly less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter.

At least two manufacturers expressed concern that a change to the end structure requirement in the ASTM standard, such as is being proposed in the NPR, may have a serious impact on the design and aesthetic appearance certain beds that are not known to have been involved in any entrapment incidents.

The chairman asked Mike Krygier and John Preston to draft language for the end structure requirement that would permit the beds whose manufacturers expressed concern to continue to be sold. Krygier and Preston were asked to submit the draft requirement to the chairman within a week for mailing to the subcommittee together with the meeting minutes.

The meeting concluded with a discussion and decisions on a number of editorial changes to the F1427 standard that had been submitted by Detroit Testing Laboratory.

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