

MEETING LOG

ASTM F15.47
FIRE ESCAPE LADDERS

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
No Mfrs/Products Identified
Excepted by
Comments Noted
DEC OF THE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

1999 JAN 26 P 2:59

SUBJECT: ASTM arranged this meeting to discuss X-15.4-1 "Provisional Standard Specification For Portable Escape Ladder For Residential Use"

DATE OF MEETING: January 20, 1999

PLACE OF MEETING: CPSC Headquarters, Bethesda, MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul, Engineering Sciences

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Caroleene Paul, Engineering Sciences

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

John Blair, ASTM
Steven J. Whitman, HMP Industries
Sara C. Yerkes, NFPA

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of this meeting was to review ASTM's proposed standard for fire escape ladders. Some companies/associations that were not in attendance had already sent their comments to John Blair.

Standard Requirements:

UL suggested adding a flammability requirement to the standard. This was rejected on the grounds that nobody would use a ladder that was on fire. In terms of heat, there is a heat deflection requirement that would exclude materials that are too soft when heated.

CPSC suggested that ASTM clarify the load test methods. The standard states to apply loads over "3.5 in. area" which does not make sense as an area by definition is inches squared. CPSC testing was done on the assumption that a 3.5 X 1.0 in² area was intended. ASTM will clarify this point.

HMP Industries questioned the deployment time and standoff criteria. ASTM assumes that deployment begins from the moment the consumer reaches for the product. ASTM also assumes that the consumer is familiar with the product, has looked at it beforehand, and stores it near the window. ASTM does not believe that a consumer would attach standoffs to a ladder; therefore, standoffs should be supplied firmly attached to the ladder. HMP does not supply attached standoffs because their instructions tell the user to deploy the ladder first, note where the ladder overlaps a window, and then install the standoffs on each ladder rung that does not overlap the window – the theory is a standoff could break the window and expose the ladder to flames. Both CPSC and ASTM believe that it is reasonable to assume consumers will not install the standoffs despite HMP's window breaking concerns. HMP also stated supplying the ladders with standoffs would significantly increase the package size; however, this is not a major concern.