

**LOG OF MEETING**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

**SUBJECT:** Meetings of ASTM Subcommittees for Juvenile Products

1999 MAR 12 P 4 3

**DATE OF MEETINGS:** 2/22-25/99

**PLACE:** Radisson Hotel,  
Orlando, FL

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

**DATE OF ENTRY:** March 12, 1999

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

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Approximately 40 representatives of manufacturers, consultants, consumers and other members of ASTM subcommittees for juvenile products. A list of specific attendees will be available with the official meeting minutes at a later date.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Play Yards** - A negative vote on revision of the ASTM F406 standard for play yards addressing top rail breakage was withdrawn. The revision will go to ASTM Committee on Standards (COS) for approval. In response to a CPSC staff request, a task group was established to address entanglement/strangulation on protrusions. In response to a request at the previous subcommittee meeting, CPSC staff provided summaries of incidents involving suffocation on floor pads or mattresses in play yards. Staff was requested to develop performance requirements to address these suffocation incidents.

**Toddler Beds** - Discussion centered on a requirement addressing entrapment in partially bounded openings. CPSC staff was requested to provide anthropometric data for dimensions for a probe similar to that used in the ASTM F1487 public playground equipment standard but reflecting the dimensions of the minimum user of toddler beds.

**Bed Rails** - JPMA is developing an I & E campaign for bed rails. Copies of a CPSC staff draft standard were distributed and it was noted that no currently manufactured bed rails would conform to its requirements. Manufacturers questioned the test parameters in the draft standard. Manufacturers did commit to developing a standard and a conference call will be held in about six weeks.

**Bassinets and Cradles** - This was an organizational meeting of a new subcommittee and considerable time was spent defining the products that would be in the scope of a standard. It was decided that two task groups would be established, one for bassinets and one for cradles. JPMA will schedule a conference call in about four weeks.

CPSC 5 (b)(3) Cleared  
*X* 3/16/99  
No Mfrs/Prvt. Bids of  
Products Identified  
Excepted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Items Notified,  
Comments Processed



**Changing Tables** - This was an organizational meeting of a new subcommittee. Manufacturers questioned whether incident data provided by CPSC staff justified the development of a standard. requirements for restraints, railings around the table, contoured pads, warning labels and an I & E program were discussed. It was mentioned that there is a European standard for changing tables. CPSC staff will attempt to obtain this standard.

**Cribs** - One negative vote, cast in a 1/21/99 main committee letter ballot of the revision of the ASTM F1169 standard for full size cribs addressing disengagement of slats in crib sides, was withdrawn. Two comments accompanying affirmative votes were ruled non-persuasive. The revision will be sent to the ASTM Committee on Standards (COS) for approval. Although data provided by CPSC did not show that decorative knobs on crib canopies were being misused by consumers who could place them directly on a crib corner post, the subcommittee will draft a requirement to prevent such from occurring. Several items that had been placed on a memory sheet during the development of the standard for non-full-size cribs were discussed. These were as follows: Change the wording of the requirement addressing maximum length of cords (7.4") and add a test to determine how the measurement is performed. Do not change the requirement addressing finger entrapment in holes. A crib manufacturer displayed the rubber pad that his company had been using on the impactor during the crib side test. The pad was badly deteriorated. He also displayed another pad that was bonded to a steel plate that he stated was superior in terms of degradation during use.

Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Infant Bedding** - No negatives were submitted in a 1/21/99 main committee ballot of a new standard for infant bedding and related accessories. The draft standard has been sent to the ASTM COS for approval. In response to a previous request for CPSC staff to search incident data involving canopy crib drapes, John Preston read a narrative in a 2/4/99 complaint in which a consumer felt that such drapes could have strangled her daughter when she pulled them into her crib. Preston said that this complaint and one similar incident that involved a fatal strangulation on ribbons attached to crib canopy drapes are the only two incidents in CPSC's data files. A provision for fitted crib sheets developed by Good Housekeeping Institute was discussed at some length. It was suggested that a single soft goods manufacturer should make sheets for all parties that were willing to perform tests to the draft provision. CPSC staff was asked to write an introduction for the fitted crib sheet provision.

**Strollers** - It was announced that the revised standard, approved in 1998, is expected to be published by 4/1/99 and certification to this standard will begin on 10/1/99. Provisions addressing car seat/strollers were approved at this meeting and will be sent to ASTM for a subcommittee letter ballot. CPSC staff noted that a stroller that was certified as being in conformance with the ASTM F833 standard had recently been recalled because of a latch failure problem. Because of this recall, the staff questioned the adequacy of the latch provisions in the current standard. A task group was established to examine the adequacy of the current requirements for latches.

**Walkers** - It was announced that certification of walkers to the ASTM F977-97 standard will begin on 4/1/99. The results of multiple run tests of walkers conducted by five manufacturers and CPSC staff to examine the variability of results on the stair fall platform were distributed. It was concluded that these tests showed that there was not a problem with test repeatability and a motion to approve a revised stair fall procedure was passed. CPSC staff was asked if there had been any reduction in the number of stair fall incidents since the introduction of walkers conforming to the new requirements. In response, staff stated that it was too early to see a reduction in incidents but there had been one incident reportedly involving a walker conforming to the provisions addressing stair falls. An IDI report of this incident will be sent to JPMA. A draft of a petition from the walker subcommittee to CPSC was distributed. The petition seeks a change to the pinching, scissoring and shearing requirements in the federal requirements to make them the same as those in the ASTM F977 walker standard and other ASTM standards for juvenile products.

Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

**Stationary Activity Centers** - It was announced that the chairman of this subcommittee has left the juvenile products industry. Charlie Roos was appointed as the new chairman. It was announced that one negative and 5 comments had been received in the 2/8/99 subcommittee letter ballot. The negative vote was withdrawn after changes were made to the standard. Some additional changes were made in response to the comments. With the changes incorporated, the standard will be sent to ASTM for a main committee letter ballot. In a discussion of the CPSC proposed provision for limited motion, one manufacturer reported that forces ranging from 2-12 lbf caused motion of his product and another reported motion when forces of 3-4 lbf were applied. CPSC staff stated that, as a minimum, stationary activity centers (SACs) should be subject to the same stair fall provisions as walkers. Manufacturers did not make a commitment until additional tests could be performed. CPSC staff was requested to review NEISS data for SACs and sort it by injury scenario.

**Infant Carriers** - CPSC test results of carrier handles were reviewed. A number of products, both car seat/carriers and non-car seat/carriers did not pass the CPSC proposed test. A revised CPSC carrier handle test protocol was distributed and it was noted that a handle aging test is a first step. Staff explained that a carrier experiencing handle failures during use could not be made to fail in laboratory tests unless the aging test was first performed. It was suggested that the term "aging test" be replaced with "preconditioning." It was noted that there is no pass/fail criteria in the preconditioning test since any handle that fails during preconditioning will always fail in the subsequent endurance test. It was also noted that some carriers that have not been involved in a recall do not conform to the CPSC staff protocol. A NHTSA representative stated that they have received complaints of handle failures on all car seat/carriers. When asked what is the handle failure criterion, staff responded that any movement of the handle latch is considered a failure. The subcommittee chairman will rewrite the CPSC proposed protocol to incorporate comments made during this meeting. Copies of a slip resistance test drafted by a manufacturer were distributed. Incident data concerning

strangulation in carrier restraints was also distributed. The chairman asked members to review all the material distributed during the meeting including the draft standard and send any comments to him. It was decided that there should be a separate subcommittee to address hazards associated with soft carriers.

**Bath Seats** - Five negatives cast in a 1/1/99 main committee ballot of a new standard for bath seats were all withdrawn. It was noted that only two companies currently market a bath seat and both conform to the requirements in the draft standard. Comments accompanying an abstaining vote in a 1998 subcommittee ballot of the draft standard suggested that there should be requirements addressing the integrity and durability of suction cups on bath seats so equipped. A CPSC staff proposal for such requirements was distributed.

**Gates & Enclosures** - The chairman distributed recommendations for a horizontal force test and requirement to insure pressure gate integrity. CPSC staff recommended a force of 30 lbf. It was noted that some gates currently being sold will not meet this requirement. Staff was requested to provide information on a recent death of a child who dislodged a gate and fell down a stairway. To address two incidents in which infants were entrapped between vertical bars in a baby gate, a change in the dimensions of Template 'A' was approved. The new template will require gates having vertical bars to have the space between adjacent bars reduced from 4¼ inches to 3 inches.

Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

**Infant Swings** - Discussion centered on comments from CPSC staff that had been sent to the subcommittee chairman in a 2/16/99 letter. Most of these comments were accepted. Staff was requested to draft provisions addressing fastener integrity (sheet metal screws) and cradle swings.

**High Chairs** - One negative vote cast in a 1/21/99 main committee ballot of a revision of the ASTM F404 standard to require a passive crotch restraint was withdrawn when the negative voter was assured that the standard would be revised in accordance with her suggestions. The revision will be sent to the ASTM COS for approval.

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