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

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.09 for Home Playground Equipment

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 16-17, 1998

**PLACE:** ASTM Headquarters  
West Conshohocken, PA

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

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** John Preston, ES

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Teri Hendy, Site Masters  
Mat Bolland, Swing-N-Slide  
Betsy Caesar, Play Care  
David Hommel, Bird In Hand  
Carl McKee, Rainbow Play Systems

Deborah Muse, Custom Swings of Texas  
Robert Pepper, Childworks  
Fran Wallach, Total Recreation  
Patrick Welsh, Hedstrom

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

After approval of the minutes of the last meeting, reports were given on other playground safety activities.

In a report on CPSC activities, John Preston noted that the 1997 CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety omitted to state that spring rockers can have use zones that overlap. Since they are technically not items of stationary play equipment they are not covered by the recommendation stating that adjacent pieces of stationary playground equipment under 30 inches in height can have overlapping use zones. Preston stated that it was the CPSC staff's intention to permit spring rockers to have overlapping use zones.

A manufacturer displayed a copy of a handbook containing anthropometric data on children that was published in the U.K. The title of the handbook is "Childata" and the chairman stated she would include information in the meeting minutes on how to obtain copies.

In the absence of two members who were going to provide information on Tot Swings, this subject was tabled until the next meeting.

A proposal by a manufacturer on slide transition areas was discussed. It was agreed that the following definition would be sent out for ballot:

3.1.6 Platform - any elevated horizontal surface intended to be used by children as a place for play or as a transition between components. Slide transition areas of less than 200 in.<sup>2</sup> are not considered to be platforms.

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The entire section on slides in the current F1148 standard was discussed at great length. A manufacturer showed a videotape of children using slides that were equipped with different types of handrails on the transition area between ladder and slide chute. The transition areas were small, less than 200 in.<sup>2</sup>. It was noted that no children attempted to stand on the transition area. They moved from standing on the top step of the ladder to a sitting position on the transition area.

It was approved that the following revision would be sent out for ballot:

5.3.1.2 A handrail ~~or barrier~~ shall be provided on all sides of the transition area (except on entrance and exit areas) that meet the enclosed openings requirements of 5.1.13. Slide transition areas larger than 200 in.<sup>2</sup> are considered to be platforms and must comply with the requirements for guardrails and protective barriers found in section 5.1.15.

It was also agreed that the entire section (5.3.2) on slide ladders would be deleted since slide ladders are now subject to new requirements for rung ladders, stepladders and stairways.

A manufacturer agreed to take a look at a change to section 5.1.10.1 to eliminate the words "hardware by design." It was agreed that the standard should not allow hardware (bolts) to be cut down during installation or maintenance.

The next meeting will be on October 27<sup>th</sup> in West Conshohocken.

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