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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: September 16-17, 1997 **PLACE:** ASTM Headquarters
West Conshohocken, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *JP*

DATE OF ENTRY: September 26, 1997

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Teri Hendy, Site Masters	Tom Mazurek, Fisher-Price
Guy Lyon, Little Tikes	Debbie Muse, Custom Swings of Texas
Chuck Obendorf, Step 2 Co.	Matt Bolland, Swing N Slide
Carl McKee, Rainbow Play Systems	George Black, Creative Playthings
David Hommel, Bird In Hand Woodwrks	Patrick Welsh, Hedstrom
Bob Fisher, Hedstrom	Donna Thompson, Univ. of N. Iowa

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

After approving the minutes of the last meeting, reports were given by others involved in playground safety as follows:

Donna Thompson, National Program for Playground Safety - Two sessions of a safety school were well received. Over 20 states were represented. A handbook is being developed which is based on the safety school. A selected bibliography referencing playground safety materials has been developed and is being offered for sale. A video aimed at children has also been developed.

John Preston, CPSC - Preston stated that a revised Handbook for Public Playground Safety was scheduled to go to the Government Printing Office this week. Preston distributed copies of a final draft of the handbook and stated that he would mail the typeset version to all F15.09 subcommittee members when it is available in mid-October.

Fran Wallach, ASTM Public Playground Equipment Subcommittee - The ASTM F1487 standard continues to be revised to attempt to harmonize its requirements with the CSA standard.

Fran Wallach, Accessibility - A Regulatory Negotiation Committee had its final meeting in July and the Access Board has accepted the committee's proposed accessibility requirements. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is expected in November.

It was noted that the revised ASTM F1148 standard is currently being printed and a second revision is expected to be published during 1997. These standards will respectively be numbered F1148-97a and F1148-97b. ✓

It was also noted that the next subcommittee meeting will be at the Omni Rosen Hotel in Orlando, FL on December 2-3. The March meeting (March 3-4) will also be in Orlando, possibly at the Adams Mark Hotel.

Several negative votes were cast in a ballot of three revisions to the F1148 standard that closed on 9/8/97. Item 1 on the ballot concerned changes to the definitions for guardrails and protective barriers and received one negative vote. The negative voter claimed that, in a previous ballot (#F150297), the subcommittee had not followed ASTM procedures in resolving his negative vote. The subcommittee determined from the minutes of the last meeting that it had handled the previous negative vote in accordance with ASTM procedures and, therefore, ruled the present negative vote non-persuasive.

Item 2 on the ballot concerned some editorial changes to the requirements for guardrails and protective barriers at 5.1.13 and 5.1.13.1 of the standard. Four negative votes were received on this item. The first was from the same person casting the above negative on Item 1 and was ruled non-persuasive. The second objected to the provision that permits guardrails or protective barriers to have a top surface up to 3 inches in width and suggested that these be limited to 1 inch. Since the width of the top surface was not an item being balloted, the negative was determined to be "not related."

Similarly, the third and fourth negative votes were ruled not related as the provisions they addressed were not being balloted. Some editorial changes suggested by CPSC staff were accepted.

Item 3 on the ballot concerned changes to the requirements for ropes. Twelve negative votes were received on this item. After considerable discussion, a motion was approved by the subcommittee to withdraw two new sections (5.9.2 and 5.9.3) for further review.

Discussion turned to new requirements addressing rung ladders, step ladders and stairways. A proposal had been drafted by a manufacturer and distributed with the minutes of the last subcommittee meeting. The proposal was similar to the requirements for access devices in the ASTM F1487 standard for public playground equipment except that the proposed slope for rung ladders was 60° to 90° and for stairways was <35°. During discussion on the proposal, the maximum slope for stepladders was changed to 65° to 75° and the maximum slope for stairways was increased to 50°. The stairway slope is the same as ASTM F1487 but it was noted that the CPSC handbook for public playground equipment recommends a maximum slope of 35°.

Another proposal for a warning in the instructions regarding instructing children to not tie jump ropes, clothesline, pet leashes, cables, etc. to any part of the play equipment was approved.

Before adjourning the meeting, it was noted that in 1998 the subcommittee will meet at ASTM Headquarters on July 16-17 and September 22-23.

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