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MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ASTM F15 Subcommittee Meetings on Juvenile Products

LOCATION: ASTM Headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA

DATE: October 13 - 16, 2009

ENTRY DATE: November 25, 2009

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Patty Edwards 

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Patty Edwards, Jonathan Midgett, Suad Wanna-Nakamura, Tongele Tongele. Jake Miller, Han Lim

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Contact ASTM for attendee lists

MEETING SUMMARY: See attached

ASTM F15 Juvenile Products Subcommittee Meetings
October 13 – 16, 2009

Monday October 13, 2009

Bed Rails

Review of may 2009 ballot results for a warning revision – The revision would add the words “When not correctly installed and maintained” to the beginning to the warning to now read: “When not correctly installed and maintained, bed rail can trap young children against mattress, headboard, or footboard.”

The negatives and comments to this ballot were reviewed. The only negative was withdrawn. This will now be forwarded to ASTM for approval and publishing.

Revisions for specific manufacturers bed rails task group report - Proposed language for this requirement was reviewed and approved to be sent out to ballot.

Incident Data Review Task Group - All the incidents occurred before the last revision of the standard except one, thus it was decided that no action to be taken but we will continue to monitor the data to see if it is effective or not.

New Business - CPSC staff announced that Bed Rails is in the next batch of two regulations and an NPR will be voted on in August 2010. Staff also made a request for comments or concerns regarding the adequacy of the voluntary standard. A task group of people interested in this issue will be put together.

Bath Seats

Reviewed incident data – only one additional death. (Round Rock TX).

CPSC Staff / NPR proposed changes - Enclosure C of the meeting agenda contained an outline of the requirements that were included in the NPR but are not in the standard.

The subcommittee will set up another task group meeting at the end of November after the NPR comments deadline to review them.

Health Canada Review - They have 16 death and 10 injures. They got no comments from manufacturers in their “comment period”. They are doing a cost benefit analysis on their regulatory process. The proposal is for a ban, but it is early on and at least a year away before a decision is made.

Infant Bath Tubs

Revision to 8.4 - Also proposing the same change as made in the bath seat standard – remove the word “specified” from 8.4. Propose to go out to ballot.

Revise 7.5 to clarify suction cup test - BV questioned the current language for the suction cup test. Also need to differentiate between products that can and can't be installed inside another enclosure that may contain water. These recommended changes can be found in Enclosure D of the Bath Seat meeting package.

The sub-committee voted to send these two issues to ballot.

Folding Chairs

A new chairman was announced - Bob Coughlin was introduced as the chairman of the Folding Chairs Subcommittee.

F2613-09 was approved April 2009 and published May 2009. It includes a revision to the scissoring and locking devices requirement.

The recent Sept 2009 ballot (closed 10/12/09) results were reviewed. This ballot addressed the static load test. Three negatives received, one was withdrawn.

One negative wanted a drop test with the same rationale used for molded non-folding chairs. Discussions pointed out that for those types of chairs, splaying is the primary cause of failure, but not for children's folding chairs. This negative was found non-persuasive. Second negative reviewed as well. It will be re-balloted in order to resolve these two negatives.

ASTM/CPSIA Special Meeting

Kitty Pilarz announced the speakers from CPSC (Patty Edwards, Cheri Falvey, Gib Mullen) and the intent of the meeting and turned it over to Patty Edwards, CPSC. The proposed timeline for the first 10 regulations to be published was reviewed. Expected NPR and final rule dates were outlined as follows:

Product	Expected NPR Date	Expected Final Rule Date
Infant Bath Seats	Sept. 2, 2009*	February 2010
Infant Walkers	Sept. 2, 2009*	February 2010
Bassinets and Cradles	February 2010	August 2010
Toddler Beds	February 2010	August 2010
Play Yards	August 2010	February 2011
Portable Bed Rails	August 2010	February 2011
Full Size Cribs	February 2011	August 2011
Non-Full Size Cribs	February 2011	August 2011
Bed-side Sleepers	August 2011	February 2012
Commercial Cribs	August 2011	February 2012

*These dates are actual, not expected.

Len Morrissey (ASTM) outlined the efforts that ASTM is doing. They will have read only copies of the standards that are associated with the upcoming and proposed rules.

ASTM is trying to open up communications with CPSC staff so that deadlines are met. This includes interim meetings, virtual meetings and more task group meetings. ASTM can now run a ballot out on the day it receives an item to be balloted.

Questions –

Paul Ware - described what he did for today's bath seat meeting and how he reviewed the NPR differences and how to proceed. He asked if that was the right way to handle it? Cheri answered that he is handling it appropriately but if ASTM gets any negatives to the ballot items, they are not relevant to our rulemaking process.

Dana Wisner – Wanted to know if we were going to do ANPRs. Discussion to follow regarding that the CPSIA streamlines the regulation process thus they are not required.

Kitty Pilarz – How will we deal with emerging hazards? Cheri said that the CPSIA allows for us to make revisions as emerging hazards come up. She brought up cribs vs. commercial cribs. And how the section 104(b)(3)(1) implies retroactiveness for cribs and means that ANY crib that doesn't meet the CPSIA requirements (once published) will be in violation.

Paul Ware - Asked about how to get future versions into the regulation – Cheri discussed options on how this might be done.

Bouncers

Discussed incident data for bouncers and rockers - Falls from elevated surfaces is the # 1 incident (in terms of number of incidents) for bouncers and #2 in rockers. Falls out of the rockers was #1 (not from elevated surfaces).

A discussion regarding whether to add rockers to the bouncer standard or should it be a standard alone. A task group set to discuss this and determine the best way to proceed.

Ballot results reviewed - This ballot dealt with changing the location of the warning label about elevated surfaces and conspicuous warnings (must be conspicuous to caregiver sitting near the product). Two negatives were found to be non-persuasive.

Toy Bars as Handles Task Group - A revised requirement was handed out as a result of the persuasive ballot result from last year. The requirement says that they toy bar must hold 50#s or come off when the bouncer is loaded with 5#. Or, if the toy bar is connected on only one end, the free end must deflect at least 2" while attempting to lift the bouncer off the floor when loaded with 5#. More work is required before moving this on to ballot.

Drop Test Proposal – (Enclosure G) was discussed and found to be better suited for the rocker seats thus will be part of that task group.

Infant Walkers

Ballot Results (4 items):

#1) Terminology/Calibration: Changes to the terminology and calibration section and the inclusion of a new figure to show open back designs. No negatives received, thus these changes will be part of the next revision of the standard.

#2) Warning for walkers that use parking brakes: Two negatives, one withdrawn. The other was made by Russ Butson saying that it was not warranted based on incident data and that it just adds an extra warning that could dilute the other warnings. It was found persuasive.

#3) Changes to the stair test ballot:

No negatives received. These changes will be part of the next revision of the standard.

#4) Parking Devise Performance Test –One negative received that argued that sideward test is not relevant (for walkers that have fixed direction wheels that only go in forward and rearward direction) and that the 2 inch/max in a minute is too strict. As with the warning ballot item, this negative was considered persuasive.

Stability Comparison Tests Task Group - Two different studies were done comparing the ASTM and the EN stability tests. The study results indicate that the EN test is not as severe as the ASTM test.

Stair Test Distance Study Task Group – This group was established to look at the requirement in the NPR that removes the set distance and requires a calculation to be made, based on weight of the walker (which for many walkers, is far in excess of 8 pounds).

Infant Swings

Ballot was for Toy Mobiles - (if they are attached to the swing and not removable, then they don't need the labeling required in the toy standard). Only two comments received. No action needed. Will go through to ASTM for approval and publication.

Review of incident data - Looked at the fatal incidents to see if there is a casual link. A task group will be established to look closer at the data, especially the stability issues and the deaths to see if new requirements can be added to address them.

Wednesday October 14, 2009

Toddler Beds

Revised standard was approved April 2009 and published May 2009. It was revised to include the fish probe, the entrapment test and warnings, revision to 6.5 and harmonizing the warnings with the crib standard.

Review of the Incident Data – A summary analysis of the data was presented. Hit was separated by the sub-committee chair it into three categories: Falls, Entrapments, and other. The other includes faulty materials and includes broken slats and guardrails.

New Business – CPSC staff discussed the CPSIA requirements and that at this time, slat integrity and guardrail integrity are two of the things being looking at. A task group will be formed to work on developing these requirements for ASTM.

Changing Tables

Revised standard was approved Aug 2009 and published Sept 2009. It was revised to include a retention test for contoured changing pads.

Warning and Weight Limit Task Group – the warning should be on both the retail package and on the product.

Changing Units on Top of Cribs – Will continue to work on this and will also include the one manufacturer who offers this type of design.

Incident Data – Task group formed to analyze the data. A request was made to have copies of the IDIs in order for the task group to deal with the data. The task group chair will make a request for the IDIs they are interested in.

Commercial Cribs

The standard (initial version) was approved December 2008 and published the same month.

Ballot Results – pertaining to an exception for day cares and evacuation requirements. The results: 1 negative. Task group will get together to work out the issues of the negative.

Wood Screws Task Group - No data was provided by manufacturers. Thus a request was repeated to have data by January 2010. It is a test protocol to help establish requirements for the use of wood screws, including size of screw, depth of engagement and drill hole size.

BV Editorial Changes – See Enclosure C for a copy of the standard and the editorial changes that were found to be needed. Those changes have been made.

Infant Bedding

Task group report - Looked at a variety of requirements that could be part of the standard including:

Bumper pad tie strength

Thread strength (or locked stitching)

Tension testing of appliqués, pom pom's, etc.

Min/Max thickness for bumper pads

Quilt warnings

4.3 wording – do we need to be specific about where the bumper needs to be attached?

The task group will continue working on these items.

Incident Data Review – JPMA analyzed the data on fatalities and provided handouts. A discussion on the industry and how they advertize their goods and if that contributes to the problem was held.

Full Size Cribs

Latest version of the standard that contained the slat strength requirement and the drop side limitations has gone through the balloting process and has been sent to ASTM for approval and publication.

Crib warnings instructional literature task group – Much discussion regarding whether or not there should be guidance regarding how large any gap should be allowed between the mattress and the crib. Many changes were made to what the task group proposed.

Crib Hardware Task Group – Nothing to report.

Paint Adhesion Task Group – Two ASTM test methods, but one is for a metal substrate and the other for plastics. Otherwise, they are identical in procedure. It isn't a pass fail but a percentage comparison chart. If this was included in the standard, a conditioning spec for the wood would be required.

Health Canada Regulation Update – It will be another 6 months at least before they update the regulation. They are currently going through the regulatory process after evaluating the comments.

Health Canada Impact Testing – Using a metal frame mattress support, the impact testing demonstrated non symmetrical loading on the four legs and significant lateral loading pulling the hangers in – rather than downward. CPSC offered to work with HC to look at other mattress support platforms.

CPSIA Task Group was formed to provide input to CPSC staff regarding adequacy of the standard for the development of the upcoming NPR.

General Juvenile Products Standard

Discussions started off debating whether or not this standard should even be considered. A query to companies who are interested in this standard to make their case will be done. If no one steps forward, this will be dropped.

Thursday October 15, 2009

Play yards/Not Full Size Cribs

Latest revision of the standard was approved in July 2009 and published in August 2009. It contains a requirement to test for false latching.

Metric Conversion – On hold for now.

BV Questions Task Group – Task group answered questions about the attachment testing requirements (5.16, 5.13). Many changes were proposed from what was submitted to the task group. Kitty and the task group will re-group and come up with a new proposal. They will go straight to ballot with whatever they come up with.

Items on Top of Play Yard – tents, gates, etc. being used to either contain child or to prevent pets from getting in. A warning to address this hazard was proposed. Many changes were suggested so the task group will re-group and come up with a new proposal. They will go straight to ballot with whatever they come up with.

Scope of Standard vs. Crib Standards – Kitty Pilarz (Chairman) gave an overview of what the discussion has been to date and why. She, Ron Hoffman plus input from CPSC staff will come up with a way to re-evaluate the various scopes.

New Business – Should the drop side requirements for full size cribs be carried through to non full size cribs? Task group assigned.

CPSIA Task Group was formed to provide input to CPSC staff regarding adequacy of the standard for the development of the upcoming NPR.

Bassinets/Cradles

Toy Mobile ballot results. One negative. Voted non-persuasive.

Fabric Covering Test Ballot – Negatives that it is too vague for the test labs to do. Much discussion continued – including the option to test with all snaps or fasteners undone. The task group will continue working.

Rocking Bassinets Task Group – A proposal for rocking angle measurement was made by the task group. It proposes a 7 degree limit. CPSC staff recommended a 5 degree limit.

Suffocation Warning Task Group – Proposal was given with wording and two options for size of font. CPSC staff recommended adding the word “deadly” or reference that children have died. The group likes changing the warning in 8.4.2.1 to **Infants have died.**

CPSIA Task Group was formed to provide input to CPSC staff regarding adequacy of the standard for the development of the upcoming NPR.

Mattress Flatness – Health Canada brought up the issue with suspended bassinet floor surfaces. Rather than form a new task group – it was decided that it will go into the rulemaking task group.

Hammock Incidents – reviewed them and are trying to decide whether or not hammocks fit the definition of a bassinet. Task group for the rulemaking will also address this.

Bedside Sleepers

Reviewed the draft standard. Many editorial changes are being made.

Hand Held Carriers

Reviewed ballot results. Two ballots: Auto Lock Handles and Openings.

- Ballot on Handle Auto Lock – 3 negatives, found persuasive thus task group will go back and look to revise it to deal with a repeatability issue.
- Ballot on openings – one negative, withdrawn, thus the new requirement will now go to ASTM for inclusion in the standard.

Comments regarding what defines accessible followed.

Handle Integrity Task group. Reviewing incident data and the number of incidents where the handle unexpectedly shifted to a new position while in use. And if the handle moves to another – unexpected – handle position, should that new position also be subject to the other handle tests?

Stationary Activity Centers

Ballot results - Regarding seat tilt were reviewed. One negative was received which was withdrawn with some editorial changes.

Friday October 16, 2009

Strollers

Revised standard approved Aug 2009 and published Sept 2009. It contained a revision on the scope and the passive containment/foot opening requirement.

Review of the ballot 09-05 that deals with two items:

- Crotch strap location on the seating surface - One negative was received, which was withdrawn, so the change will go to ASTM.
- Section 6.7.1.1 - Impact test was revised to address the situation where a car seat attachment broke during the test, allowing the car seat to separate at that point (though it was still attached at another point) so that seat passed the requirement. The ballot was changed to reflect all attachment points need to function and the car seat can't fully or partially separate from the stroller. One negative. Found non-persuasive.

Definitions of Carriages Task Group - Stroller Frames that are sold separately from the stroller seats or carriage components, can they be certified? JPMA has decided that they can be certified if they are from the same manufacturer. A task group will look into this issue.

Stroller w/ Rotating Seats Task Group – A proposal for a stability requirement for these types was reviewed and will be sent to ballot.

Reflective Materials on Strollers – Incident data does not indicate a pattern of night time accidents with strollers. No further action needed.

Front Stability Test Question – Is any clarification needed to determine the pass/fail criteria? A recommendation was made to clarify the issue. It will go to ballot.

Gates and Enclosures

Ballot Results Reviewed – Revision to 8.2 (clarify that the month and year code mark requirement is a minimum) No negatives. Revised 7.7.1 (clarification regarding which test fixture to use). No negatives. Revision to Push Out Procedure (7.7.2.4) to clarify how the forces are applied for irregular shaped gates (accordion style). Two negatives, one withdrawn. The other deals with where to put the test block. Found persuasive. Task group will reconvene and work out a solution.

Revised Standard: The first two items balloted went to ASTM and the new standard was published Aug 2009.

High Chairs

Two items are ready to go out to ballot. Clarify testing sections found in 7.4 and in the restraints section.

New Business - redundant trays. Do both need to be tested to the tray pull test requirement? Task group established to address this.

Tray Release Mechanism Task Group – Provided a proposal for ballot to clarify intent. After discussion, it was approved to go out to ballot.

Proposed Revision to Section 1.4 - To insure that all parts or components required to comply with the standard must be shipped with the high chair. And to restrict removable components (that do not use tools to remove) that take the high chair out of compliance. Task group to work out the requirements.

Booster Seats

Revised Standard approved July 2009 and published August 2009.

January 2009 ballot contained several changes, and got a negative that was found persuasive. Thus, the remaining items (with no negatives) needs to be reballoted. It is in Enclosure B.

Incident data review – The analysis performed by Tony shows that booster seats & chairs tipping over when installed on adult chairs is a hazard that is not addressed in the standard. Thus, look at adding a warning. Same thing for straps securing the seats to the chairs releasing or loosening. There is no requirement.

Tip over warning – discussions were held.

Adult chair strap requirement - Enclosure E is a proposal to test for this. Should it go out to ballot?

Warning Revision Task Group – They are working on dealing with warning against automobile use.

Age for restraints task group – Whether or not to lower the age to 2 ½ years for needs for restraints. Nothing decided thus the task group needs to regroup.

Slings

Incident Data Review – the sub-committee discussed the fatal incidents. The main problem identified by the subcommittee was that the product does not allow the adult wearer to see the occupant. There ensued much discussion of how to ensure that a child was visible in a sling and the task was allocated to a task group to draft some wording.

Health Canada - outlined a series of potential requirements for consideration.

A warning label - was presented for discussion and CPSC staff volunteered to do a review of it.