



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.59 Children's Step Stools and Standing Towers Task Group Meeting

FY26 OP PLAN ENTRY: Children's Folding Chairs and Stools

DATE OF MEETING: 1/8/2026

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Brad Gordon (ESMC)

FILING DATE: 2/9/2026

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Zachary Goldstein (LSM), Brad Gordon (ESMC), Stephen Harsanyi (ESHF), Daniel Taxier (ESMC)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact ASTM for the full attendee list.

Summary of Meeting:

The ASTM F15.59 Children's Step Stools and Standing Towers Task Group (TG) met to discuss the following items related to the draft standard for step stools:

Structural element failures. The TG discussed which criteria should be considered as a structural element failure. One member raised concerns about whether very small separations (e.g., 1 mm) should automatically be considered failures, even if overall product integrity remains. The group discussed differences between threaded fastener-attached elements (inspected after test completion) versus non-threaded attachments (which may need monitoring during testing and could constitute immediate failure if they separate during testing). One member proposed clarifying that inspection for separation of key structural elements (particularly those attached by threaded fasteners) be done on the fully assembled product after testing. The TG agreed to keep a separate subsection to address elements that must be continuously evaluated during testing versus those measured after completion.

Load application method for stability testing (hanging weight vs. applied vertical force). The TG reviewed and compared various standards (e.g., for high chairs, stationary activity centers, and bassinets). Several members pointed out that some labs historically used hanging dead weights, whereas others used a downward vertical force applied by a tester. Staff reported that there were inconsistent results depending on load application method (hanging weight vs. pushing/pulling), indicating that the type of method can affect pass/fail outcomes. The TG discussed concerns with hanging weights (such as swaying, tether length, attachment sliding off angle iron) and how to control for those variables. The TG agreed to require a dead/static weight of 35 lbs. and to



specify that the load must be applied vertically.

Maximum weight marking and pictogram use. One member proposed allowing a pictogram to convey maximum weight if it adequately conveys the maximum weight and suggested adding “Max” to reduce confusion. CPCS staff cautioned that pictograms not validated to ANSI Z535.3 can risk critical confusion and recommended testing if pictograms are used. The TG discussed the placement of max-weight information for multi-mode products (e.g., combined high chair/step stool). The TG agreed that a maximum capacity should be stated in the instructions/markings and that a pictogram is acceptable if it clearly conveys the max weight.

Next Steps:

The TG plans to meet on February 5, 2026 to continue updating the draft standard for standing towers.