



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.30 Subcommittee on Bunk Beds

FY 25 OP PLAN ENTRY: [Not on the FY 25 Op Plan]

DATE OF MEETING: 4/30/2025

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual and In-Person at ASTM Headquarters (West Conshohocken, PA)

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Tim Smith (ESHF)

FILING DATE: 5/6/2025

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): In-Person: Jacqueline Campbell (EXRR) and Daniel Taxier (ESMC); Virtual: Tim Smith (ESHF), Vineed Dayal (LSM), and Kristen Talcott (ESHF)

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

Summary of Meeting:

This meeting of the ASTM F15.30 Subcommittee on Bunk Beds was led by the subcommittee Chair, Anders Persson. The latest revision to the voluntary standard (F1427) was published in 2021, so the standard needs to be reviewed for balloting. The subcommittee is considering several additions or revisions to the voluntary standard that will likely result in at least one new ballot.

Most of the meeting time focused on task group reports to the subcommittee:

- *Guardrail Task Group.* The task group has been developing a ballot that would add two types of requirements to the bunk bed standard: (1) requirements for a guardrail to be installed on the wall side of the bottom bunk, and (2) warning requirements pertaining to the use of the lower-bunk guardrail and the placement of the bunk bed relative to surrounding walls and structures. CPSC staff briefly summarized the warning requirements. Attendees suggested removing an explicit reference in the warning to “dressers” as structures to keep at least 9 inches away from the bunk bed, because of possible consumer confusion related to bunk beds with integrated dressers. Attendees also suggested that the task group consider adding a pictogram similar to one used for inflatable mattresses that includes a warning about a similar placement issue. These suggestions will be sent back to the task group for consideration. One member raised the question of why a guardrail requirement was being considered for a lower bunk when such a requirement is not included in the standards for other beds, like toddler beds. The subcommittee chair stated that bunk beds are larger and heavier, and therefore less likely to move if a child is entrapped, and that the subcommittee is concerned about addressing known incidents with bunk beds, regardless of whether other beds include guardrails. The same member also questioned why a guardrail was being considered if compliance with the proposed warning about bunk bed placement would address the issue. The subcommittee chair stated that there was no mechanism for enforcing consumer compliance with the warning.



- *Stairs/Slides Task Group.* The task group has been examining stair- and slide-related requirements in the European bunk bed standard and the playground standard, respectively, for possible requirements to be incorporated into the ASTM standard. The task group chair is waiting on feedback from the task group on the requirements within these standards. The CPSC incident data spreadsheet that was shared with the subcommittee in Fall 2024 was added to the task group's collaboration area to help inform the task group's decisions. A brief discussion about stairs with drawers integrated into the steps turned into a lengthy discussion about whether bunk beds with drawers are within scope of the clothing storage unit standard, ASTM F2057-23, which is incorporated by reference in a CPSC rule (16 CFR part 1261). The discussion will be continued during the Furniture subcommittee meeting, scheduled for the next day.
- *Age (Adult vs. Youth) Task Group.* The task group had considered whether the current ASTM standard should be amended to address bunk beds with large upper bunks, which are aimed at adults and seemingly intended for multiple occupants despite the standard having a warning against multiple occupants, or if ASTM should have two standards: one for children's bunk beds and one for adult bunk beds. The task group's conclusion was that there was no need to address adult bunk beds separately from children's bunk beds.
- *Ladder Push Out Force Task Group.* The task group is intended to address an incident involving entrapment at the neck in the space between the top rung of a ladder and the upper bunk; the bottom of the ladder apparently pushed out enough to temporarily form a space in this area large enough for entrapment. The task group chair was not present to update the subcommittee.

CPSC staff reported to the subcommittee a recent recall involving a metal bunk bed with spacing that did not meet the Federal standard. Staff also identified a fatality involving a loft bed that currently is under investigation but was likely noncompliant with the standard.

During new business, CPSC staff notified the subcommittee about a recall involving a Montessori bed, which is not within the scope of the toddler bed standard because of its size (*i.e.*, larger than a full-size crib mattress), and which the Toddler Bed subcommittee concluded would not be appropriate for them to address because their membership does not include manufacturers of these larger beds. The bunk bed subcommittee formed a task group to consider options for addressing these products, including the possible formation of a new "youth bed" or similar standard, whose requirements would be similar to the bunk bed requirements, but without requirements related to the fall hazard. Such a standard may include beds larger than a toddler bed, up to twin-bed in size. CPSC staff volunteered to participate in the newly formed task group and intends to send incident data to the subcommittee, when available.

Next Steps:

Task groups will continue to meet, and the subcommittee intends to meet again in Fall 2025.