



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.29 Subcommittee on Playground Equipment for Public Use

FY 25 OP PLAN ENTRY: Playground Equipment (Public)

DATE OF MEETING: 05/06/2025 – 05/07/2025

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual and in-person at the Sheraton Toronto Centre, Toronto, ON

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Andy Newens (ESMC)

FILING DATE: 06/10/2025

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Virtual: Andy Newens (ESMC), Daniel Taxier (ESMC)

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

Summary of Meeting:

The ASTM F15.29 Public Playgrounds Subcommittee met to discuss potential updates to voluntary standards for public playground equipment. Efforts were mostly focused on F1487-21, *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use*, and F2373-24 *Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months through 23 Months*.

- 1) The subcommittee chair shared that the updated standard F1487-25, is set to be published very soon. Changes will include ballots that have passed with all negatives resolved through early 2025. Motions were then voted on, and passed, to ballot the following new items in the near future:
 - a. The proposal to add exemptions for entanglement hazard testing in ASTM F1487 Section 6.4.2 (Projections from a Horizontal Plane) and 6.4.4 (Projections Which Increase in Size) for ground level equipment when the user's feet are on the ground and the projections are less than 30 inches above the underlying surface. CPSC staff expressed the concern that children getting stuck can be a hazard in itself, even if it's at ground level, and staff wants to look into this issue further.
 - b. The proposal for ASTM F1487 Section 8.5, Slides, to address performance requirements for tall slides (greater than 5 feet tall). The current requirement of an 11-inch-long minimum slide exit region is not adequate for taller slides due to the higher user exit velocity. To use the EN1176 playground standard as an example, it requires a 20-inch-long minimum exit region for slides over 5 feet tall and a 60-inch-long minimum exit region for slides over 24.5 tall. This proposal also includes adding various warning messages on slides, such as the hazard of sliding in tandem or with any person in your lap. CPSC staff requested that the ballot include adding an appendix with example pictograms.
 - c. The proposal for ASTM F1487 to add a definition for "Forced Movement Equipment" (such as slides, swings, and rotating equipment) and a new requirement in Section 9.1 for level use zones for playground equipment that causes forced movement.
 - d. Proposed new language for ASTM F1487, clarifying a reduced fall height for fully enclosed structures because the top of the structure would not be accessible.
- 2) Under liaison reports, CPSC staff shared that updates have been made to the draft CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook based on public comments received during the open comment period ending on December 1, 2024. The final revised Handbook for 2025 was still on track to be published during this



fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, but no specific release date could be shared.

3) Play Mounds task group (TG):

The TG chair discussed the status of the development of performance requirements for play mounds (document WK84464) that he is preparing to ballot again in the near future. The following recent changes have been made: a) rationale for impact attenuating play form requirements; b) clarified the scope for the definition of “play embankment”; and c) clarified language for use zone requirements for different scenarios.

4) F2373 (Toddler) TG:

The Toddler TG met to discuss potential exploration of future adjustments to F2373. One proposal was limiting the scope to fixed or anchored public use equipment. The chair discussed how U.S. states have a difficult time helping their day care centers make decisions – for example, what equipment is allowed; what equipment is safe? States are hungry for more guidance. Many in-home day cares will buy cheaper equipment that’s meant for home use (not always anchored), rather than more expensive equipment that is used commercially and is always anchored. CPSC staff observed that the scope of F2373 currently includes “indoor (classroom)” – this would suggest non-anchored equipment is included. The TG chair expressed that she would like to see harmonization of the CPSC Playground Handbook with F2373.

The TG reached consensus that its next steps would be to review how the scopes of the following standards compare (F2373, F1148, F1918, F963), and if/how the scope of F2373 might have to be changed with respect to the indoor toddler climber standard that is being developed.

5) F15.36 Subcommittee – Soft Contained Play Equipment:

The SC chair shared the details of ballot F15 (25-09) items 1 and 2, currently open and closing on 5/13, which is proposing to incorporate exit requirements (such as dimensions of exit pathways, distance of equipment to an exit) in case evacuation is needed, such as for a fire. The objective is to minimize the time it takes for children to safely exit or be rescued by an adult if needed. Also, there is a proposal to change the subcommittee’s name to “Contained Play Equipment,” because the description of “Soft” is no longer relevant to how the products are being manufactured in recent years.

Next Steps:

CPSC staff will continue to actively participate in public playground subcommittee meetings, along with TGs for play mounds and the F2373 “toddler” standard. The next F15.29 public playground subcommittee meetings will be held in conjunction with F15/F08 Committee Week on November 11-12, 2025 in Atlanta, GA.