



## MEETING LOG

**SUBJECT: ASTM F15.22 Toy Water Bead Meeting Log**

**OP PLAN ENTRY: Toys**

**DATE OF MEETING: 5/6/2026**

**LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual**

**CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Matt Kresse (LSM)**

**FILING DATE: 5/14/2026**

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Matt Kresse (LSM), Ashley Johnson (HSPP), Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP) Jill Hurley (ESHF), Jacqueline Campbell (EXRR)

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

### Summary of Meeting:

The working group met to discuss the current CPSC toy water bead rule and potential modifications to a previous ballot from the group:

1. The definition of a water bead was discussed however no substantial changes were suggested.
2. The 5mm diameter size limit was discussed. The previous ballot from the working group recommended a 12mm diameter limit.
  - a. A member uploaded information to the collaboration area regarding an incident claiming a 10mm diameter water bead caused an obstruction within the digestive tract, however the group hasn't had a chance to review it.
  - b. The group discussed CPSC's rationale for the 5mm size limit and confirmed that the limit was based on an incident showing a young female (age unknown) having an ear canal size of 5.9mm diameter and a study by The University of Iowa which found that the average pediatric airway of a 0-1 year old child was 6mm diameter.
  - c. Some members suggested raising the limit, stating ear and nose insertions were less likely than ingestions, while others were not in agreement.
  - d. A member suggested removing water beads from ears is easy and doesn't cause long term damage, while another suggested long term hearing loss has been found in multiple cases.
  - e. A member mentioned an incident in Guatemala where a 5-year-old died from ingesting a water bead. CPSC staff responded they could obtain a redacted IDI of this incident and share it with the group.
3. The funnel and sieve test gauges were discussed. CPSC staff provided rationale for the additional option of



a sieve style gauge to measure multiple beads at once. CPSC staff clarified that the rule currently states to observe if the water bead is able to pass through the gauge opening under its own weight. There were suggestions from the group about allowing agitation or tilting of the gauge when testing multiple beads at once.

4. Testing sample size was discussed, and it was confirmed that the working group will propose the C=0 sampling plan to the Emerging Hazards Group. This sampling plan was originally suggested by the smaller sampling size task group that met several times in 2025.
5. Testing for accessibility was discussed. The current CPSC rule states to test all toy water beads, bypassing any use/abuse testing to determine accessibility. Some members agreed that it's difficult to test for accessibility on stress and squeeze balls. However, others suggested the group look further into some testing that includes cyclic testing and environmental screening. It was clarified that the bite test of 16 CFR 1500.53(c) has been excluded since 1974.
6. The current CPSC rule's warning statement requirements were reviewed along with suggestions from the water bead warning label task group which met in 2025.
7. The current CPSC's acrylamide testing parameters were discussed. CPSC staff clarified that a more detailed test procedure will be published for labs to review as an option to follow. Some members suggested that the current 325 microgram limit is too low because some food items contain higher levels of acrylamide. However, other members claimed that water beads and food items behave differently within the digestive tract. Another member offered to invite more acrylamide experts in a future meeting.
8. Multiple documents were uploaded to the collaboration area on the day of the meeting, and it was suggested that the group should review them in time for the next meeting.

### **Next Steps:**

The next meeting has not been scheduled but will be tentatively in June or July 2026. CPSC staff will move forward on publishing its acrylamide testing test procedure and obtaining a redacted IDI from an incident in Guatemala to share with the group.