



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: Meeting of the ASTM F15.79 Task Group on Beach Umbrellas

FY 26 OP PLAN ENTRY: Market Umbrellas/ Beach Umbrellas

DATE OF MEETING: June 29, 2026

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual/WebEx

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Andy Newens (ESMC)

FILING DATE: July 28, 2026

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Andy Newens (ESMC), Sharon White (ESHF), Ashley Johnson (HSPP)

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

Summary of Meeting:

The Beach Umbrellas (BU) Task Group (TG) was formed by the ASTM F15.79 Market Umbrellas Subcommittee to develop safety standards and test methods for BUs installed in or on the sand. There are several incidents in which fly-away BUs have seriously injured beachgoers, including two deaths. The voluntary standard, ASTM F3681-25, *Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Beach Umbrellas and Anchor Devices*, was updated in July 2025. The specifications establish minimum requirements for safely anchoring all beach umbrellas to prevent them from detaching from the sand due to windy conditions.

The TG met to discuss stakeholder comments and proposed changes to the standard. A group member proposed a change to the standard's testing requirement for a sand box having "minimum test area dimensions of 3 ft long by 3 ft wide by 2 ft deep," which implies a rectangular shape. The proposed wording allows an alternative cylindrical sand container with a minimum test area diameter of 3 feet and depth of 2 feet. CPSC staff had agreed at the previous meeting that the cylindrical container meets the intention of the requirements because there is still 1.5 feet of clearance from the center of the umbrella anchor to avoid interference of the container walls. The proposal will be sent out for balloting.

A manufacturer shared a redlined version of the standard with its proposed changes to the warning label requirements, including: 1) removing the two statements in bold that use the word "killed"; 2) removing the depiction of blood; 3) not requiring products that meet the performance requirements to have warning labels on the underside of the canopy and allowing alternative placement, such as on the base; 4) reducing the number of required on-product warning labels from two to one; and 5) allowing for some instructions to be pictures rather than words. CPSC staff restated their recommendation to keep the warning label under the canopy because it's more visible than on the base, and consumers are more likely to notice the warning under the canopy and be incentivized to follow the anchoring instructions. Staff also stated that consumers may not take the warning seriously if the warning is placed on the base rather than under the canopy where the warning will be more visible. Regarding the depiction of blood on the graphic, staff is not opposed to removing it, if the graphic depicts the figure to be in distress.

The TG chair made a proposal for a tradeoff, which is to allow the use of an alternative, less graphic label if products are prohibited from having sharp points on the umbrella pole tip. His concern is that it is very likely some users will not follow manufacturer's instructions to properly install the anchor. In this case, an umbrella that goes airborne with a sharp pole tip is more likely to cause impalement than a blunt pole tip.



He wants to add the requirement that umbrella poles cannot have pointy ends (a spike; a pointy screw/auger) permanently attached to the pole. The chair recommended that screws/augers as non-attachable accessories be sold with umbrellas to facilitate installation in the sand.

One participant volunteered to draft an alternative warning label and pole tip requirements based on the above recommendations for review before the next meeting. The chair also asked CPSC staff to provide input to alternative warning label requirements. CPSC staff will consider the request for follow-up.

Next Steps:

Group members were asked to review the written change proposals once they are distributed before the next virtual meeting, which is anticipated for the end of August. The next in-person meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2026, in Jacksonville, FL.