



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.30 Bunk Beds Stairs Task Group Meeting

FY 24 OP PLAN ENTRY: [Not on the FY 24 Op Plan]

DATE OF MEETING: 7/11/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual (Webex)

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Tim Smith (ESHF)

FILING DATE: 7/11/2024

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Tim Smith (ESHF) and Daniel Taxier (ESMC)

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

Summary of Meeting:

This meeting of the ASTM F15.30 Bunk Beds Stairs task group (TG) was led by the TG chair, David Dick. This was the initial meeting of the TG and the purpose was to discuss possible requirements for stairs to be added to voluntary standard, which currently only addresses requirements for ladders as a means of egress or access to the upper bunk.

The TG chair shared the European standard for bunk beds and high beds, EN-747-1, the most recent version of which includes requirements for stairs and handrails. The TG discussed the various stair-related requirements, including the following:

- *Handrails.* The consensus of the TG was that handrails should be required for bunk beds with stairs. The TG discussed whether there also should be a barrier or panel in the handrail area to address the potential for falls, and there was general agreement that this would be a good idea, particularly for the top access platform of the stairs, which would likely be at the same height as the upper bunk.
- *Dimensional Requirements.* The TG discussed how it would be useful to compare the dimensional requirements and limits of various features (e.g., handrail height) to the requirements for other products, like playground equipment.
- *Drawers and Treads.* The EN standard includes a requirement that prohibits drawers and similar storage features from interfering with the usable area of the stair treads. The TG discussed possible interpretations and implications of such a requirement. The consensus was that any features that protrude or open into the tread area would be prohibited, and the TG preliminarily agreed that such a requirement made sense.



- *Tread Impactor.* Part 2 of the EN standard includes a figure showing a “tread impactor” that presumably is used for testing that involves impacting the stair treads. The TG questioned whether such a test was needed, given that there are not similar requirements in the ASTM standard for ladder rungs, yet there are no known incidents involving rungs failing. CPSC staff expressed concern about omitting such a test, despite the lack of incidents, and noted that staff is pulling incident data—expected in Fall of 2024—and it is possible that there might be relevant incidents in that data. Staff also questioned what requirement employed the tread impactor and the TG was unable to determine this while reviewing the standard during the meeting. The TG intends to seek out an answer to this question.

The consensus of the TG was that the stair-related requirements in EN-747-1 would serve as a good baseline for the ASTM voluntary standard.

Next Steps:

The TG chair intends to prepare draft requirements, based on those in the EN standard, for further discussion at the next TG meeting, which will be scheduled at a later date.