



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.59 Children's Step Stools and Standing Towers Task Group Meeting Log

FY 26 OP PLAN ENTRY: Children's Folding Chairs and Stools

DATE OF MEETING: 9/3/2026

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Brad Gordon (ESMC)

FILING DATE: 9/23/2026

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Brad Gordon (ESMC), Stephen Harsanyi (ESHF), Daniel Taxier (ESMC), Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP)

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

Summary of Meeting:

The ASTM F15.59 Children's Step Stools and Standing Towers Task Group (TG) met to discuss the following:

(A) Negative feedback and American Ladder Institute concerns. The group discussed the withdrawal of negatives concerning the flooring provisions and the structure of the draft standard. Several members addressed concerns associated with the American Ladder Institute's opposition to development of an ASTM standard for children's step stools. Members noted that the concerns could affect the standards-development schedule and discussed the possibility of engaging the organization directly. The group proposed holding a public meeting with the American Ladder Institute, with participation by CPSC staff and an opportunity for observers to attend. Members also discussed communicating the public-meeting format in the response and bringing the matter before the subcommittee at its October meeting.

(B) Proposed scope and editorial clarifications. The group considered whether the draft standard should expressly clarify that adult step stools covered by ANSI A14.11 are outside the scope of the children's standard. Members discussed the distinction between adult and children's products and noted concerns regarding differences in the stability provisions and the applicability of the adult standard to children's products. The group also considered whether a reference or scope clarification could be made editorially—or whether it would require a ballot. Members further discussed the possibility of addressing related concerns in a future revision while preserving the work completed on the children's step stool standard.



(C) Non-persuasive votes and rationale documents. The group discussed the need to prepare non-persuasive rationales addressing outstanding negatives and to circulate the proposed rationales for review. Members considered editorial changes related to an example figure and the letter height specified for the maximum-weight marking. The group indicated that formal votes on non-persuasive items should be considered at the October subcommittee meeting. Follow-up activities include preparing and consolidating the rationale documents, sending draft materials to the working group for comment, and circulating the proposed rationale to relevant stakeholders, including stakeholders who were not present at the meeting. The group will use the comments received to support consideration of the rationales and related editorial revisions at the October meeting.

(D) Standing tower stability. The group reviewed standing tower stability, including center-of-gravity information, stability calculations, and assumptions concerning the size and weight of children who may use the products. CPSC staff presented center-of-gravity data that was generally consistent with earlier estimates. Members discussed the use of conservative or extreme child-size data to evaluate stability for a broad range of users and considered whether separate stability tests may be appropriate for forward and rearward directions. The group also discussed the relationship between the proposed stability requirement and the location of existing standing towers relative to a counter.

(E) Bounded openings and entrance design. Members discussed the potential effects of the bounded-openings requirement on standing towers, particularly folding products and products with different entrance configurations. The group noted that the requirement could affect existing product designs and agreed that additional analysis was needed before reaching consensus. Members also discussed the potential for children to climb on standing towers and the importance of clear instructions addressing proper use. The group considered whether the forward stability test could be adjusted in response to concerns about product design, while recognizing the need to evaluate any change against the safety objectives of the draft standard.

(F) Warnings and instructions. The group reviewed proposed improvements to warnings and instructions for standing towers. Members discussed recommendations from CPSC staff to reduce redundant language, address hazards associated with product collapse, and arrange the information in a clear order of operations. The group emphasized that warnings should be conspicuous and that instructions should clearly address proper use, supervision, and the conditions under which a child may use the product. Members considered the use of specific, caregiver-understandable terminology, including a reference to the child's belly button, to describe the intended height or position of a warning indicator. The group agreed to consolidate the proposed warnings, instructions, and related meeting



notes for review at the October meeting.

(G) Additional safety considerations. The group identified additional issues for continued evaluation, including slip resistance, containment for younger children, and the use of third-party accessories with standing towers. Members noted that instructions should clearly address accessory use and help prevent product misuse. The group also discussed the need to review available incident information concerning climbing and side-containment issues. Members will evaluate whether any new incidents support adding a requirement to the draft standard or whether the issues should remain on the group's memory sheet for further consideration. The group agreed to continue reviewing unresolved issues, including the effects of bounded openings on younger children, and to revisit these matters at future meetings.

Next Steps:

The TG plans to meet October 1, 2026, from 2:00–3:30 PM (ET) to continue work on the draft standards for children's step stools and children's standing towers.