



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.29 F1487 Playground Equipment for Public Use - Play Mound Task Group Meeting

FY 25 OP PLAN ENTRY: Playground Equipment (Public)

DATE OF MEETING: 10/16/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Teleconference

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Andy Newens (ESMC)

FILING DATE: 11/21/2024

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Andy Newens (ESMC)

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

Summary of Meeting:

The task group (TG) met to continue developing performance requirements for play mounds (document WK84464). By “play mound,” members mean surfacing features that have been introduced to add play value such as embankments, mounds, and bumps. The proposed new language under ASTM F1487-21, *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use*, was balloted in April 2024 (F15 (24-06) Item 007). Over the following months, CPSC staff has been participating with TG members in reviewing and addressing ballot negatives. The TG leader posted and shared a document on SharePoint containing a table of the negative comments from the April ballot and space for the TG members to propose alternative language or other responses to the negatives.

Playground design has been trending toward increased inclusion of natural looking elements, whether intended for play or as landscaping. TG members discussed the feedback they have been receiving from landscape architects, whose concern is how to determine the scope of where landscaping stops and the play equipment use zone starts. Tackling this issue will address some of the negatives to the ballot.

The TG members provided varying perspectives on how to address this issue, raising questions that led to further deliberation: How is “play equipment” defined? Does it include something as simple as grade changes in the surface? How will safety inspectors in the field interpret these requirements?

The TG leader commented that the surfacing, when turned into mounds, essentially becomes “equipment” because it provides play value. Another way to describe it is the defined “play area.” One TG member proposed that he would provide for comparison a version of Canadian standards that is more of a guide on this issue than requirements. The approach is more of a risk assessment, which is less constraining on the architects.

CPSC staff confirmed that they have searched the incident data but have not yet seen any reports involving play mounds. However, the TG as a whole is still inclined to proactively establish guidelines for play mounds in the voluntary standard, rather than wait until incidents are reported.

Next Steps:

The TG leader suggested that the next step for the group members is to add their recommendations for the proposed new language in the SharePoint document. The next TG meeting is scheduled as part of the F15.29 Subcommittee for Public Playgrounds meeting on November 13, 2024.