United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission

MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.09 Climbing Triangles Task Group Meeting

FY 25 OP PLAN ENTRY: Playground Equipment (Home)

DATE OF MEETING: 10/22/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Khalisa Phillips, Ph.D. (ESHF)

FILING DATE: 12/05/2024

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Khalisa Phillips, Ph.D., & Jill Hurley, ESHF; Andrew Newens, ESMC; Daniel Taxier, ESMC; & Benjamin Mordecai, LSM.

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact ASTM for a list of non-CPSC attendees.

Summary of Meeting:
This was the first meeting of the Climbing Triangles Task Group for ASTM F15.09 Home Playground Equipment. CPSC staff began the meeting by sharing some questions we have about indoor climbers such as: what age range are the products developed for? How closely spaced are the rungs and do they match the age ranges firms are targeting? Members also mentioned a need to define products being addressed by the task group, and how to distinguish them from larger indoor play equipment as well as foam blocks for climbing. Staff notes that the major safety concern with climbing triangles is head entrapment. Some other hazards include falls, folding inward, collapsing / rungs detaching, and sliding/climbing boards becoming dislodged and causing impact injuries.

The next topic discussed was the history of climbing triangles. The products were originally invented over 100 years ago in Europe for use in Montessori classrooms, for infants and toddlers. A member stated that these products also should be covered under ASTM F2373 - *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months through 23 Months* given classroom use. One European standard that may cover these products is EN 71-8: *Swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use*. This led several members to question whether climbing triangles are play equipment, toys, or both. The task group decided that climbing triangles should be addressed primarily by ASTM F15.09 Home Playground Equipment, then other groups can follow suit.

The task group lead began addressing climbing triangles under the existing ASTM F1148 - *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment.* A member questioned whether a stand-alone standard would be more appropriate for triangle climbers. The first topic the group addressed is developing definitions such as triangle climber. While products are on the market

for both indoor and outdoor use, members suggested limiting use to indoors. This issue was not resolved.

Then members discussed potential performance requirements including locking devices / pins at all joints to keep a climber in a set configuration to prevent components from becoming dislodged during play. One concern voiced by several members is that we should be careful not to negate or contradict requirements for older age groups already addressed by ASTM F1148 - *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment*. For example, just because rungs should be more closely spaced for younger children to prevent head entrapment, it does not mean specifications for rung spacing should be altered for older age groups.

One member stated that there has been a long-standing minimum age requirement for runged climbers under ASTM F1148 - *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment*. This member recommended that the task group consider developing an exemption against runged climbers for younger children provided the products do not exceed a certain maximum height (ideally where children can touch the floor) and are used indoors over a soft surface. The last topic addressed in the meeting is what head probe should be used for testing for head entrapment. One member stated that the head probe used in ASTM F2373 - *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months through 23 Months* is 9-inches in diameter. The issue was not resolved.

Next Steps:
The task group will continue to discuss whether climbing triangles should be addressed as playground equipment, toys, or both. There is a need to continue discussion on how to address runged climbers for children younger than the minimum specified age in ASTM F1148 - *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment*. Members plan to revisit what head probes are appropriate for testing triangle climbers based on which ones are used for other juvenile products standards.