

**LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

SUBJECT: Meeting of the ASTM Infant Bedding task group on Crib Bumper Airflow

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2018

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual (teleconference)

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Tim Smith (ESHF)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Tim Smith (ESHF), Mark Eilbert (LSM), Sandra Inkster (HSPP), & Hope Nesteruk (ESMC)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Seabren Reeves (Bitzy Baby) and other task group members. Contact ASTM for attendee list.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible performance requirements related to airflow or breathability for crib bumpers and similar products. The meeting was led by Seabren Reeves, the chair of the Airflow task group for the ASTM Infant Bedding subcommittee.

The meeting began with a discussion of outstanding concerns that have been raised during prior task group meetings related to airflow requirements. The primary concern was how to define "mesh," given the Commission's direction that crib bumpers should meet or exceed the airflow characteristics of mesh or mesh-like materials. As in the prior meeting of this task group, staff was asked how the Commission defined "mesh" for the purposes of this requirement. Staff again reiterated that it interprets mesh products as those products currently marketed as mesh liners, and that staff interprets the Commission's proposal as meaning that bumpers would have to meet or exceed the airflow of those mesh liners with the lowest airflow levels.

Some task group members raised questions about the validity of such an airflow requirement, because it is unclear how airflow relates to breathability per se, or how it relates to the specific incident data. The task group also discussed the Intertek test method, which task group members said: (1) suggests that current bumpers pose a low risk of suffocation, and (2) is a proprietary test method that cannot be incorporated into the ASTM voluntary standard.

The task group discussed the incident data, and how the fatality rate is low enough and the timeframe since publication of the last ASTM standard revision (2012) is short enough that one cannot conclude whether the standard has been effective.

The task group chair concluded the meeting by stating that the data do not support an airflow requirement at this time, but that the task group will continue to think about this issue.