

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.42 (Furniture Safety) Subcommittee Meeting

DATE OF MEETINGS: May 4, 2018

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Patty Edwards

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: May 8, 2018

LOCATION: ASTM Headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Michael Taylor, Hope Nesteruk, Max Sanborn, Patty Edwards, and Sarah Garland, Kristen Talcott, Chuck Smith (via phone)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact ASTM for attendance list

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:15am.

There were no outstanding ballot results to discuss.

F1813-12, *Specification for Glass Used as a Horizontal Surface in Desks and Tables*, is with ASTM Committee on Standards, resolving negative votes, and should get a June 2018 approval date.

F3096-14 *Performance Specification for Tipover Restraint(s) Used with Clothing Storage Unit(s)*, is up for its five year review and will need to be updated next year.

Consumer Reports (CR) provided a presentation. They tested an additional dressers and several of them passed a 60# stability test. Six of the dressers were 30" or below in height, and three of them passed the 60# test. Their presentation also stated that 8 of 13 manufacturers who provided information stated they would support a mandatory regulation.

- CR's recommendation to ASTM is to increase the stability load to 60# and to include all dresser heights
- CR's recommendation to CPSC is to support a mandatory rule for CSUs that includes a test-weight requirement of 60 pounds and covers units 30 inches and shorter units.
- Recommendations for Consumers – they should anchor their furniture, and avoid putting TVs on dressers.

Following the presentation, there were questions and discussions. Much of it geared towards the lack of information associated with the dressers involved in the incident data. Of the incidents where manufacturing data is known (only 6% for fatal incidents included in the 2016 data spreadsheet), none were compliant with the 2014 ASTM standard.

Outstop information was also discussed. Members want to know where the outstops are located in the units that CR tested. Manufacturers requested all the information on the dressers tested regarding design of the drawer glides, outstops, leg location for the dressers who meet 60#.

Following the CR presentation, Janet McGee provided a statement regarding her son, Ted, and his death on Feb 14, 2016, resulting from a dresser falling on him. Erica Fried and her husband followed with their own statement, regarding their daughter, Harper's death.

Don Huber, from Consumer Reports, reviewed a proposed ballot items:

- 1) Change 1.1 (scope) to remove the 30" restriction.
- 2) Change 1.3 to cover children up to 72 months in age.
- 3) Change to the weight of the text fixture to 30# (x 2) as seen in Figure 5.

The proposed ballot items were separated into 3 different motions. The 1st motion – Remove the words “over 30 in. (762 mm) in height was made and second. After much discussion, the motion votes were agreed to be postponed until after the task groups reported.

Age and Weight Task Group Report –

Charts showing the height of children, compared to dresser height was presented. The task group discussed a tiered approach of shorter units needing to meet lesser weight requirements for the stability tests. Discussion followed but no motions were made, as many felt “more work needs to be done”.

Don Huber made a motion to change Figure 5 so that the weights would total 60# (30# each). Michael Taylor amended the motion with tolerances. The discussion that followed focused again on the lack of definitive information regarding incidents, that the current 50# is not adequate. The motion failed 20 negatives, 9 affirmative, 8 abstentions.

From the discussion, a Scope Task group was formed to better define what “clothing storage unit.” Another task group will talk about the 30" requirement. The task group requested IDIs involving units 30", which CPSC staff agreed to redact and provide.

Operational Sliding Length Task Group –

The task group proposed new language. Following lengthy discussion and editing, a motion was made and approved to send the following out to ballot: ***“Open to 2/3's of the operational sliding length, or to the first outstop, whichever distance results in the drawer being opened further, without override of a mechanical feature.”***

Also during this task group report, pictures of glides were shown and IKEA demonstrated its sloped glide feature.

Labeling Task Group –

The draft labeling developed by the task group was presented. It has new language throughout the label and a “no TV” icon. Motion made to send it to ballot. The follow up discussion dealt with timing of the labeling and the fact it was just changed in the 2017 version. Motion passed and the proposed ballot will be sent out to ballot.

Carpet Testing Task Group –

The chair reported what was discussed at the March 8th task group meeting. No work done since then and the task group is still looking for information to correlate testing on carpet with inclined surfaces.

Freestanding Furniture Task Group –

The task group chair showed photos of freestanding furniture and the task group wants to know if they are in or out of the standard. The subcommittee had general agreement that many of the models shown should be in scope. These units would need a new stability test method, exemption from requiring wall anchors, and new labeling placement requirements. The task group chair will draft requirements for consideration.

CPSC staff proposals –

Staff reviewed proposals for the test method sections:

- 1) Fixture Tolerance – Right now the fixture has tolerances of +/- 1.0 lb for each weight, and staff proposed +/- 0.1 pound for each weight and a +1.0/- 0.0 pound for the total fixture. There was no discussion, and the proposal will be sent to ballot.
- 2) Application of Test Fixture – Staff proposes adding in a time (5 seconds) for the gradual application and holding it there for 30 seconds. Also, staff has proposals for how to test when the drawer has a center knob and how to test if the drawer is shallow enough that the weight contacts the drawer bottom. The subcommittee had many comments. The subcommittee decided to delete the last two edits (If a center knob/handle protrudes, position the fixture to one side of the knob/handle) (To ensure the test fixture doesn't contact the drawer bottom manually shift the centerline of the fixture strap to in front of the drawer front edge) and continue working on those aspects. The rest of it was approved to go out to ballot.
- 3) Repair broken CSU – Staff provided a proposed edit that outlines how to repair a broken glide. There was too much discussion to come to ballot. Some folks want to suggest a method where the case is not damaged or screwed into it.

There was no new business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.