

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.77 Standard for Marketing & Labeling Magnet Sets Containing Small Loose, Powerful Magnets with a Flux Index ≥ 50

DATE OF MEETING: November 18, 2019 3pm, EST

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Stephen Harsanyi, ESHF

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: November 19, 2019

LOCATION: Teleconference

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Stephen Harsanyi (ESHF) and Susan Bathalon (EXHR)

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

Summary of meeting:

CPSC staff participated in a conference call meeting held by the ASTM F15.77 scope task group. The task group is working on potentially expanding the scope of the draft “Standard for Marketing & Labeling Magnet Sets Containing Small Loose, Powerful Magnets with a Flux Index ≥ 50 ” to include performance requirements.

In this meeting, the task group was focused on ideas regarding packaging and techniques that accomplish one or more of the following: visual verification that the entire set has been repackaged and child resistant (CR) packaging.

Ideas for visual verification included: packaging shapes (tubular, coil, or hexagonal), magnetic packaging, a packaging design that shows the weight of the set, directions prior to repackaging (hexagonal shapes or cube shape), and measuring strings to be included with each set. The task group speculated on potential weaknesses of each approach, such as the following: manufacturing feasibility, likelihood of compliance from other manufacturers, and manufacturing variance in size and weight. Several task group members, including CPSC staff, voiced concerns about depending on consumers having the time, inclination, and ability to locate and repack the sets in their entirety after every use. One of the task group members with experience in handling magnet sets explained that some shapes, such as cubes, can be very difficult for consumers to make, whereas others, such as hexagons, are much simpler. Task group members will share images and videos demonstrating the abovementioned ideas.

The task group discussed some of the potential pros and cons of CR packaging. CPSC staff recommended consulting staff’s briefing package regarding magnet sets to review some of the potential weaknesses associated with CR packaging in general and specific to magnet sets. Staff stated that one potential benefit of CR packaging is a visual reminder that the contents of the package are hazardous. One task group member raised the idea of requiring CR packaging exclusively for the outermost packaging. One task group member indicated the necessity for data demonstrating the need and effectiveness of CR packaging. The task group requested that CPSC staff revisit incident data for the frequency of children accessing magnets in packaging. The task group acknowledged that CR packaging is less effective for older aged children.

Next Steps:

Future discussions will occur regarding size and strength of magnets in magnet sets, and reduction of magnetic attraction post-ingestion. A follow-up task group meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019 from 10:30am to 12pm, EST. CPSC staff indicated that they may be unable to attend the meeting given that the notice is less than seven days. The subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2019 from 1:30pm to 2:30pm, EST.