LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of the ASTM F15.16 Infant Feeding and Support Products Subcommittee

OP PLAN PRODUCT: Infant Support Pillows and Nursing Support Products

DATE OF MEETING: May 23, 2022

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual/Teleconference and ASTM Headquarters (100 Barr Harbor, West Conshohocken, PA)

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Tim Smith (ESHF)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Tim Smith (ESHF), Jacqueline Campbell (EXHR), Mary House (GCRA), Jill Hurley (ESHF), Ashley Johnson (HSPP), Celestine Kish (ESHF), Kevin Lee (ESMC), Stef Marques (HSPP), Susan Proper (EC), Dan Taxier (ESMC), Carlos Torres (ESMC), and Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Contact ASTM for attendee list

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

This meeting of the ASTM Infant Feeding and Support Products Subcommittee was led by the Co-Chairs of the subcommittee, Jessica Doyle and Barbara Himes. The meeting began with a brief summary of the purpose of the subcommittee—to develop a proposed voluntary standard for infant feeding and support products—and a discussion of the products considered to be within the scope of the subcommittee. The in-scope products were described as products whose primary intended use, or sole use, was for support during nursing or bottle feeding. Infant loungers, infant carriers, play mats, tummy-time supports, and seated supports are excluded from the scope.

The discussion then turned to task group reports. The chair of the Incident Data task group summarized the major findings from the incident data examined by the task group, pointing out that numerous incidents were lacking in details regarding the product type and shape, among other details. The chair stated that redacted in-depth investigations were requested from CPSC, both on behalf of the subcommittee and as FOIA requests, for many of these incidents. The subcommittee discussed the findings and noted that there appeared to be no issues associated with using the product for nursing. Some members discussed the possibility of encouraging shapes or designs that maintains the functionality of these products for nursing but discourages use for propping up the infant or for infant sleep. Some members discussed the possibility that warnings might effectively address the products’ use for sleep, but CPSC staff pointed out that the majority of these products already warn against this use. Members also discussed possible
reasons why the number of annual fatalities seemed to double starting in 2017. One member suggested that perhaps density or compression requirements could be included in the proposed standard to address misuse of the products for sleep.

The co-chairs of the Scope & Definitions task group presented the task group’s draft of the scope section of the proposed voluntary standard. They stated that the main focus was on feeding as a primary function, with other support functionality as a possible secondary function, and with a goal of avoiding overlap with the Infant Loungers subcommittee scope. The subcommittee discussed whether it was appropriate for the scope section of the standard to include a statement about the products not being intended for sleep and only being used with supervision. The consensus of the subcommittee was that these products shouldn’t be used for sleep; however, some members worried that including that statement in the scope might take products that allow for use for sleep out of the scope of the standard and that the scope should avoid potentially restrictive language. Other members stated that including this language is important to make sure manufacturers understand that these products are not intended for sleep. Members also discussed language about potential secondary use of the product for support beyond feeding, and expressed concern that this language might confuse test labs. The chairs of the task group agreed to bring the draft language back to the task group to discuss further.

The subcommittee formed two new task groups: one for warning requirements and one for performance requirements. Rachael Shagott volunteered to lead the warnings task group, and Jessica Doyle volunteered to lead the performance requirements task group. Several CPSC staff volunteered to participate in both task groups. The subcommittee co-chairs then concluded the meeting.