Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Meeting Log
Play Yard Subcommittee Meeting

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.18 Subcommittee Play Yard Meeting
LOCATION: ASTM Headquarters (100 Barr Harbor, West Conshohocken, PA) and Virtual/Teleconference
DATE: May 25, 2022, 9:30am, ET
LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Frederick deGrano (ESMC)
COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Jacqueline Campbell (EXHR), Frederick deGrano (ESMC), Cynthia Gillham (EC), Stephen Harsanyi (ESHF), Celestine Kish (ESHF), Timothy Smith (ESHF), Daniel Taxier (ESMC), Carlos Torres (ESMC), Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP), Mary House (GCRA), Susan Proper (EC), Ashley Johnson (HSPP)
NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Jennifer King, Subcommittee Chair. Contact ASTM for the attendee list.
MEETING SUMMARY:

The subcommittee chair called the meeting to order, and the subcommittee moved to approve the agenda and previous meeting minutes.

The subcommittee discussed recently balloted items, beginning with an item pertaining to marking and labeling. This initial discussion focused on whether manufacturers should be able to include on-product warnings regarding use of an after-market mattress, as included in the ballot-proposed language. Several members voiced concern that after-market mattresses could be meaningfully different from the OEM mattresses, resulting in safety concerns. Other members explained that beginning in August 2022, after-market mattresses will need to meet the same specifications as the OEM mattresses they are intended to replace (per 87 FR 8640). The subcommittee voted to continue task group work on this matter.

Next, the subcommittee discussed the ballot item regarding mattress thickness; proposing to increase maximum mattress thickness from 1.5” to 2”, while not allowing a gap between mattress and sidewall larger than 0.5”. CPSC staff explained their negative vote, which, among other concerns, was due to the proposed performance requirement not taking into account the flexibility of non-rigid sidewalls. Some members echoed this concern, and others debated it, opining that incident data show no hazard patterns with gaps less than 2”. CPSC staff refuted this claim and explained that the incident data is inconclusive on the gap size involved in incidents for a number of reasons, including lack of detail about gaps in most cases, particularly with force applied to the play yard side. Additionally, one member mentioned the risk of limb entrapment, which could involve smaller gaps than head entrapment. CPSC staff proposed revising the balloted performance requirement to incorporate a force on the sidewall for measuring gaps. Subcommittee members debated that the proposal, with some arguing CPSC’s proposed test is too stringent and that no 2” play yard mattresses will be able to pass. A subcommittee straw poll voted to find the negatives non-persuasive and to publish the standard. The vote to find the negatives non-persuasive will need to be conducted officially by ballot of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee then discussed task group updates, beginning with requirements for hybrid non-full-size cribs. The subcommittee plans to ballot an item proposing changes to F406 to account for these products with both rigid and non-rigid components, including a requirement that the top of the mattress must be below the non-rigid components. The subcommittee discussed task group work defining standards for emerging products with padded floors. Subcommittee members discussed concerns regarding padded floors allowing mattresses to form hazardous depressions and recommended
considering a mattress firmness test. Subcommittee members voted to bring back to task group to include a mattress firmness test.

Lastly, the subcommittee discussed two play yard petitions submitted to CPSC to address mattress fit and thickness, including a minimum and maximum mattress height requirement, and standardizing play yard/mattress sizes. Subcommittee members will organize a meeting to give members an opportunity to openly discuss the petitions.

The next subcommittee meeting is planned for October 2022 in New Orleans, LA.