

LOG OF MEETING DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of the ASTM F15.16 Infant Feeding Support Products Performance Requirements Task Group

OP PLAN PRODUCT: Infant Support Pillows and Nursing Support Products

DATE OF MEETING: August 31, 2022

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual/Teleconference

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Tim Smith (ESHF)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Tim Smith (ESHF) and Mark Eilbert (LSM)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Contact ASTM for attendee list

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

This meeting of the ASTM Infant Feeding Support Products Performance Requirements task group was led by the Chair of the task group, Jessica Doyle. The Chair shared an initial document she prepared with ideas for basic requirements to be included in a standard for these products. Some possible requirements identified in the document related to lead, phthalates, sharp points and edges, small parts, and various strength requirements. CPSC staff suggested that many of the requirements in the infant feeding support products standard could mirror what would be in the infant lounger standard, which is a parallel ASTM activity.

The task group discussed other possible requirements that were more specific to the products in question, including the following:

- *Washability.* The task group discussed a possible washable requirement, to make sure the products can be washed for sanitary or hygiene reasons. The Chair stated that the British Standard, BS 4578:1970, includes a washing procedure that might be relevant. Staff pointed out that this requirement was likely a standard washing procedure that is performed prior to testing, in case the act of washing the product would affect the results.
- *Firmness.* The task group discussed the possibility of adopting the BS 4578:1970 hardness test for firmness testing. Staff pointed out that the hardness requirement is based on the percentage deflection of the product's original thickness, which results in an allowable absolute deflection that is greater for a thicker product than for a thinner product. Staff suggested a firmness requirement that would rely on a maximum absolute deflection with a set force, or a minimum force to deflect a set distance.
- *Ergonomic design.* The Chair raised the possibility of requirements related to the ergonomic design of the product to make it more comfortable for the caregiver to use.

The consensus was that this was likely a convenience or consumer satisfaction issue, more than a safety issue that needs to be addressed in the standard.

- *Harness.* The task group discussed possible requirements for product harnesses that are included for the baby. One member stated that other standards include some simple restraint requirements, but the general consensus of the group was that there seemed to be little need for restraints or harnesses for the baby, and that allowing for these devices could invite misuse. One member pointed out that they seemed unnecessary because the caregiver is not supposed to leave the baby. The Chair noted that there appear to be some products like this on the market, but they may be geared more for lounging or self-feeding.

The Chair ended the meeting by stating that she would write up her notes and send those, along with her original document, to the task group. She also stated that she would set up another meeting for this task group in the next couple weeks.