

Voluntary Standards Meeting Log

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.79 Beach Umbrellas (BU) Task Group

LOCATION: video conference

DATE OF MEETING: August 31, 2022

LOG ENTRY DATE: September 13, 2022

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Andy Newens (ESMC)

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Andy Newens (ESMC), Caroleene Paul (ESMC), Fred DeGrano (ESMC), Lawrence Mella (ESMC)

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

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The Beach Umbrellas (BU) Task Group was formed by the ASTM F15.79 Market Umbrellas Subcommittee for the purpose of developing new BU safety standards and test methods. The primary hazard of concern stems from several incidents in which a fly-away BU seriously injured a beachgoer (including two deaths) after the wind pulled it out of the sand and sent it airborne.

In this meeting, CPSC staff shared a summary of the results from preliminary pull-force testing in sand and wind-testing with an instrumented umbrella test fixture to determine the lift forces, lateral forces, and cyclical movement of the umbrella pole. The testing will generate data to determine common ranges of forces that BUs with different size/shape canopies will experience at different wind velocities, and help determine the requirements for reliable and safe BU and anchoring systems. The Task Group anticipates developing a performance requirement for manufacturers that includes an option for either wind tunnel testing or pull-force testing on an umbrella/anchor system in sand.

Follow-up action steps are for CPSC and TUV to continue to refine their wind testing setup and test procedures. CPSC staff will continue testing (in-house and field testing on local beaches) in September. Meeting dates are typically on the first Wednesday of each month; the next virtual meeting is on September 7, 2022.