LOG OF MEETING OFFICE OF HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND REDUCTION & DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.19 Wearable Infant Blankets Performance Requirements Task Group

DATE OF MEETING: September 20, 2022

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual (teleconference)

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Khalisa Phillips

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: (participated virtually) Rana Balci-Sinha & Khalisa Phillips (ESHF), Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Contact ASTM for attendee list.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Ballot Results: None

This meeting was led by Tara Williams. The main topic of discussion was the use of TOG ratings for wearable infant blankets. Several points were raised regarding limitations of TOG ratings. While TOG testing based on ISO 110092: 2014 is relatively inexpensive and widely used for labeling wearable infant blankets on the market, several task group members stated that TOG ratings do not differentiate well between light and midweight textiles, there is poor test reliability across labs, there are calibration problems, and TOG was never intended for testing infant apparel. A few concerns regarding interpretation of TOG ratings by consumers were raised such as TOG ratings cannot be added (not cumulative), and it is not easy for consumers to select a product based on a TOG rating for a particular environment. One member has developed a table of recommended textile layers for dressing baby for specific temperature ranges (mild, moderate, cool, etc.) and presented it at the meeting. Merits of using such a table was discussed. One member suggested dressing baby based on what a caregiver would find comfortable. Another approach is to teach consumers to pay greater attention to baby's signs to see if he/she is sweating on their head or chest. Several members expressed disfavor with adopting TOG for mandatory testing and/or labeling. Others suggested the standard contain language requiring testing for TOG if a company used it for labeling. While further discussion is needed, the task group consensus appears to involve finding a way to rate and label products for use in different temperatures/environments.