

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Log of Meeting

Subject: ASTM F15.45 Candle Fire Safety Task Group Meeting

Date: September 21 and 22, 2022

Location: Columbus, OH and Virtual

Prepared By: Scott Ayers (sayers@cpsc.gov, 301-987-2030), September 26, 2022

CPSC Attendees: Scott Ayers (in person) and Yeon Kim (virtual on September 21)

Non-CPSC Attendees: Contact ASTM for a complete list of attendees.

Summary of Meeting:

Contact ASTM for more details of this meeting. This was an in person meeting of the candle fire safety task group with a virtual option. The candle fire safety task group is considering revisions to ASTM F2417. CPSC staff actively participated in all discussions.

The group first discussed indoor air quality (IAQ) of candles. Scott Ayers discussed the independent working group on IAQ and gas ranges. While the work does not directly affect candles, the results may be useful for potentially developing IAQ requirements for candles. Rob Harrington discussed recent work sponsored by the National Candle Association and other candle associations on candle emissions. The candle fire safety task group and the ASTM candle subcommittee will continue to discuss IAQ and monitor progress of other IAQ groups.

The group discussed candle making kits. A small task group, which CPSC participated on, recommended non-mandatory appendix material for ASTM F2417 that provides best practices for candle making kits. Additionally, the small task group recommended a new task group to develop a separate standard for candle making kits. Staff volunteered to participate on that task group. Staff also recommended that providing instructions on making candles and all the supplies, but not packaging the supplies together by the manufacturers, should be in scope of the candle making kit task group. The candle fire safety task group also discussed whether the supplier needed to attach the wick to the container; staff was open to allowing the consumer to attach the wick if the instructions were clear and precise.

The group discussed container flammability. A small task group, which CPSC did not participate on, discussed on-going work to develop requirements for various container issues such as interior coatings on candle containers. The group will need more time to develop a proposal for ASTM F2417. The candle fire safety task group agreed that this work should continue but revisions could be included after the next revision of the standard.

The group discussed candle end of life. The candle fire safety task group chair proposed additional appendix material for ASTM F2417 that explains issues associated with candle end of life. The candle fire safety task group is interested in educating the candle makers on end of life and providing best practices to reduce the likelihood of candle failures at end of life. Staff supported the additional appendix material.

The group discussed wick migration and wick leaning. The candle fire safety task group chair proposed additional requirements for ASTM F2417 that requires the wick flame does not contact the container side for more than 5 seconds and that multiple wicks cannot come close enough together to form a single flame. Staff supported these new requirements.

The candle fire safety task group agreed to add the new language for candle making kits, end of life, and wick migration and leaning into the next revision of ASTM F2417. The candle fire safety task group will work via email to finalize the proposed language for each of the proposals before balloting to ASTM F15 committee. The proposals may be balloted separately.

The candle fire safety task group also review the watch list items. ASTM F2601 is due to be reviewed next year; a small group was established to review the current requirements in ASTM F2601 and propose any changes. Staff volunteered to participate. Staff pointed out that several recent recalls in the US and Canada have focused on candle holders failing due to the heat of the candle. These recalls and associated incidents should be reviewed.

The candle fire safety task group was provided with updates by the task group on visible emissions, the task group on candle labeling, and the task group on data. All three task groups are not active and waiting on outside issues before continuing their work.

The candle fire safety task group will next meet virtually on January 24, 2023, as part of the quarterly incidents and recalls review. The ASTM F15.45 subcommittee will next meeting sometime during the week of April 24, 2023, as part of the NCA annual meeting. The candle fire safety task group will next meet in person on September 20 and 21, 2023 in Columbus, OH.