

Voluntary Standards Meeting Log

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.79 Beach Umbrellas Task Group

LOCATION: Teleconference

DATE OF MEETING: February 2, 2022

LOG ENTRY DATE: February 17, 2022

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Andy Newens (ESMC)

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Andy Newens (ESMC)

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

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

This was the inaugural meeting of the Beach Umbrellas Task Group that was formed from the ASTM F15.79 Market Umbrellas Subcommittee, for the purpose of developing new beach umbrella safety standards and test methods.

The task group discussed a proposed scope for a new beach umbrella standard. Generally, such a standard would be geared towards both beach umbrella manufacturers and sand anchor manufacturers. For beach umbrella manufacturers, the standard will likely include a test method for obtaining a wind rating for the umbrella (separate from the sand anchor) through a wind tunnel test. For sand anchor manufacturers, the standard will likely include a test method for obtaining a wind rating for the umbrella/sand anchor system.

The task group manager described how he recently engaged a wind tunnel testing facility to conduct some tests on three different types of beach umbrellas installed in a sandbox, both with and without sand anchors. He will post the test methods and data to the online ASTM task group collaboration area.

The task group also discussed the variables involved in wind tunnel testing using a sandbox, including different types of sand, moisture conditions, and the end user's method of umbrella/sand anchor installation – bringing to the forefront the issue of repeatability of the testing. A few group members agreed that the group will likely need a geologist or sand specialist to advise on such issues.

CPSC staff concurred with another group member who suggested looking at a test to measure the extraction force to pull an umbrella shaft/anchor out of sand.

Future meeting dates are planned for the first Wednesday of each month, the next one being March 2, 2022. The topic will be a continued discussion on how to address the testing issues described above.