Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Meeting Log
ASTM F08.30 Fitness Products Subcommittee

SUBJECT: ASTM F08.30 Fitness Products Subcommittee Treadmill Task Group Meeting
FY23 OP PLAN ENTRY: Treadmills
DATE OF MEETING: June 23, 2023, 1:00 PM, ET
LOCATION: Teleconference
LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Frederick deGrano (ESMC)
FILING DATE: June 30, 2023
COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Frederick deGrano (ESMC), Caroleene Paul (ESMC), Timothy Smith (ESHF)
NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Harvey Voris, Task Group Lead. Contact ASTM for the attendee list.
MEETING SUMMARY:

The task group reviewed a draft proposal which includes design requirements for mechanical guards in way of the rear roller, placement of the mechanical guard relative to the rear roller, and dimensions of accessible gaps above and below the mechanical guard. The task group discussed what would be an appropriate vertical dimension of the gap between the floor and the mechanical guard to prevent access underneath. CPSC staff stated the concern is a child being able to reach underneath the guard for a toy and getting pulled in. Some task group members stated that the minimum height of the mechanical guard must allow the treadmill to incline up to its maximum incline angle. The task group agreed to continue considering the mechanical guard design requirements based on this feedback.

The task group discussed the draft test method for determining accessibility, which involves applying a finger probe to any accessible space during operation. CPSC staff stated it was important to simulate the recent fatal incidents where children have been pulled under the treadmill while the treadmill was moving, and the task group lead clarified that the probes shall be applied during multiple conditions: while the tread is stationary, while the tread is moving at minimum speed, and while the tread is moving at maximum speed. To comply with the performance requirement, the treadmill shall not entrap the test probe.

A task group member presented their design of a breakaway mechanical guard for a slat-based treadmill. The guard is designed to prevent entrapments by detaching and swinging away from the moving surface at the rear roller if an object such as a finger or hand were to access the gap between the guard and the moving tread. The breakaway action also shuts off power to the unit which stops the tread surface. Task group members expressed concern that the sudden stop/deceleration of the tread surface may create a new hazard to the user; however, the presenter stated that the treadmill was tested at various speeds without issue. The ASTM standard has a maximum deceleration requirement for treadmills and the breakaway guard design does not exceed this requirement. One task group member expressed concern about the breakaway guard providing child access to the rear roller area.

The UL representative task group member stated that he has been observing the task group's efforts over the year and has intentionally remained silent to allow the task group to develop requirements that UL may eventually reference. So far, the UL representative believes the task group has been on course and making progress.

NEXT STEPS:

The task group lead will collect additional feedback from task group members and incorporate changes to the draft proposal to be discussed at the next task group meeting.