



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.09 Home Playgrounds Subcommittee Meeting

FY 24 OP PLAN ENTRY: Playground Equipment (Home)

DATE OF MEETING: 11/08/2023

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Khalisa Phillips, Ph.D. (ESHF)

FILING DATE: 12/01/2023

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Khalisa Phillips, Ph.D., ESHF, & Andrew Newens, ESMC

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact ASTM for a list of non-CPSC attendees.

Summary of Meeting:

The Subcommittee for ASTM F15.09 Home Playgrounds met to address various hazards associated with home playground equipment. The meeting began with approving the current meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes from May 2023. The Subcommittee had no ballot results, outstanding negatives needing resolution or new standard and reinstatement work items requiring review. Members gave a status update on two work items that are being revised for ballot. Item WK84584 seeks to develop a pictogram that warns of strangulation hazards on home playsets.

The task group met virtually on 9/12/2023 to go over a proposed pictogram, the range of hazards the pictogram should address, and whether there are areas on home playgrounds other than slides that present an entanglement hazard. In response, the Chair requested more comprehensive incident data from CPSC regarding all playground strangulations, which is anticipated by mid-January 2024. The second item, WK85750, specifies requirements for after-market swing hooks, clips, and other attachment fixtures purchased for installation or repairs. A persuasive negative vote was adopted at the May 2023 meeting.

CPSC staff gave a liaison report to the ASTM Subcommittee. First, staff addressed the status of the FY2024 operating plan being on the cusp of Commission approval that same week and that the current version includes CPSC staff resources to update the (2010) CPSC *Public Playground Safety Handbook* during the coming fiscal year. Second, CPSC staff presented information on two redacted In-Depth Investigations (IDIs) on strangulation hazards provided to the subcommittee since the last meeting. One IDI involved a playset climbing rope with two attachment points that was not anchored at the bottom and formed a complete loop, resulting in fatal strangulation. Another near fatality involved a reused sweatshirt (size unknown) when a drawstring became caught in a crack between deck boards at the slide entrance.

Several old business items were raised including Section 6.5 force needed to remove caps from open metal tubes on playsets, and whether to add fireman / sliding poles to the standard. The subcommittee plans to continue discussion at the next meeting. The subcommittee then turned to new business. A member notified



the group about a recent fatal strangulation involving an indoor textile swivel swing possibly involving a plastic children's chair. Members discussed ways to address the strangulation hazard such as setting adequate clearance zones around swings. The group raised concerns about how to address non-hazardous protrusions and certain products that move (such as a swivel telescope on a playset). CPSC staff inquired whether knotted ropes protruding on the outer surface of the swing seat would be considered non-hazardous and the extent to which these products are subject to F1148 given that many are marketed as tree swings.

Next Steps:

CPSC staff will continue to participate actively in the pictogram strangulation task group meetings and share redacted incident data as soon as it becomes available. The next pictogram strangulation task group meeting is planned for January 2024, and the next ASTM F15.09 Home Playgrounds subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 2024.