

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.19 Methods for Measuring Re-Breathing Task Group

FY 23 OP PLAN ENTRY: Infant Bedding

DATE OF MEETING: 2/13/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Ashley Johnson (HSPP)

FILING DATE: 2/16/2024

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Ashley Johnson (HSPP), Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP), Tim Smith (ESHF), Daniel Taxier (ESME), Frederick DeGrano (ESME), Zachary Foster (ESHF)

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

Summary of Meeting:

The subject Task Group (TG) is developing test methods to measure firmness, airflow, and carbon dioxide (CO2) re-breathing for infant products.

The TG Chair began the meeting by explaining that the Standard Test Method for Firmness of Infant Products ballot (the ballot) closed on January 18, 2024. The TG chair then stated that the ASTM Interlaboratory Study that has been initiated for the Firmness Test Method (ILS 1887) is prepared to move forward but is currently delayed until the Firmness Test Method is published. The TG chair also explained, after a TG member question, that an ILS takes place after the publication of a test method and that ASTM allows five years to complete the ILS. Following that, the test method can be revised.

The TG then reviewed comments on the ballot, including three negative comments. The TG chair explained that the first negative comment was withdrawn. The second negative comment generated substantial discussion. The TG first discussed the test platform and test stand in Section 4.1 and 4.2 and whether it should be designed to be adjustable, to allow tilting of the test platform to apply the probe's force perpendicular to a curved surface, to test more products. The TG chair explained that every firmness test of an infant product can reference this test method but that the product standard for the specific product being tested will include performance requirements and other details that specify how a product should be tested in combination with this test method. A TG member then explained, as an example, that the draft ASTM standard for Nursing Pillows contains details about the testing stand and testing location, as well as information on the manufacturers recommended use position. The TG chair stated that he will add detail and clarity to this section by including a reference to the appendix, which will include examples of how products can be secured or supported to allow testing at any location. Next, the TG reviewed the third negative comment, which pertained to section 7.7 of the Test Procedure that mentions recording the force at a one-inch displacement. TG discussion centered around the rationale of trying to achieve a one-inch displacement for products that are less than one inch in thickness. After discussion, the TG agreed to reword the section to clarify "a displacement of one inch or the target specified in the product standard". After a TG member comment on scope in CPSC's Infant Support Cushions Notice of Public Rulemaking (NPR), CPSC staff clarified in-scope products for the TG and encouraged ASTM participants to comment on the NPR during the open comment period, noting that the comment period will close on March 18, 2024.

Lastly, the TG chair demonstrated a handheld firmness device that utilized a red and green light to indicate whether a product meets a required level of firmness. The TG briefly discussed its utility as a screening tool for firmness of curved seating products.

Next Steps:

The TG will continue discussing draft firmness, airflow, and CO2 re-breathing test methodologies at the next meeting. The next TG meeting is expected to take place on February 27, 2024.