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: May 2, 2023, 1:00pm, ET

LOCATION: Teleconference

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Frederick deGrano (ESMC)

FILING DATE: May 17, 2023

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Frederick deGrano (ESMC) and Caroleene Paul (ESMC)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Harvey Voris, Task Group Lead. Contact ASTM for the attendee list.

MEETING SUMMARY:

The task group lead began the meeting by reviewing the background of the task group and the work completed as of the previous meeting held on November 2022. The task group lead presented various test device concepts that have been developed for testing products to performance requirements including a three-wheeled sliding probe and a mechanism utilizing a baseball as the probing device and discussed the issues with each prototype.

The task group lead reviewed the progress on the current draft performance requirements and proposals for the task group's consideration. The requirements intend to prevent a child's appendage such as a finger, hand, or arm from accessing the space between the moving tread and a mechanical guard in order to reduce the risk of injury or death resulting from a child being pulled underneath an operating treadmill. The task group lead first presented anthropometric data for pinky fingers of 8-month-old children and proposed decreasing the maximum gap requirement between the tread and mechanical guard to 7mm from 9.5mm. Some task group members argued that their belt treadmills with larger gaps have historically been widely used without any incidents. The task group lead requested CPSC staff investigate incident data for belt treadmills.

The task group discussed the placement of the rear guard relative to the rear wheel, and the task group agreed that the top of the rear guard should be placed around the 4 o'clock position of the rear roller (3 o'clock facing the rear direction of the treadmill) in order to reduce the likelihood of the weight of a child pushing into the gap. The task group then discussed specifying minimum dimensions for the guard to ensure adequate structural strength, and the task group agreed that the probe test would ensure the guard is structurally adequate so that the probe cannot enter the gap between the guard and the moving tread. The task group lead proposed reducing the diameter of the test finger probe to 7mm to be consistent with the anthropometric data and the reduced gap requirement for the guard, and the task group generally agreed.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the task group lead summarized the feedback from the discussions of the meeting and will incorporate the changes into the draft proposal for the next task group meeting.

NEXT STEPS:

CPSC staff will investigate incident data for belt treadmills with rear guards to support further development of the standard in the next task group meeting.