

MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

10/27/06
EXCEPT
RULES
WITH PORTION

SUBJECT: ASTM F15 Bi-Annual Subcommittee
Meetings – Juvenile Products

LOCATION: West Conshohocken, PA

DATE: September 25 – 28, 2006

ENTRY DATE: October 27, 2006

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Patricia Hackett (PH)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Patricia Hackett, Jonathan Midgett,
Risana Chowdhury

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: See ASTM for Roster (www.astm.org)

MEETING SUMMARY: See Attached

ASTM F15 Subcommittee Meetings September 25 - 28, 2006

(Next Meeting Date: March 19-22, 2007)

Monday September 25, 2006

Bouncers

Warnings Task Group provided their report: They reviewed the proposed warning for toy bars: "The toy bar is not a carry handle. Do not use toy bar to lift and carry bouncer." The sub-committee voted and it passed to go to ballot.

New Business: CPSC staff and BV Testing lab discussed the Forward Stability Test and the testing discrepancy on the procedure. It was also questioned whether the product used in the demonstration can be classified as a bouncer. A task group was formed to discuss both the test procedure and the scope of the standard.

Play Yards

Latest version of the standard F 406-06 was approved and published in March 2006 and contained editorial changes to section 9.4 and note 2.

Warnings Task Group provided their report: they reviewed the latest revisions made by the task group for the warnings section. These revisions are being done to make warnings consistent, more understandable and so that the sections flow logically. The revisions as outlined at the meeting were voted on and it was agreed to send them out to ballot. In addition, the memory sheet items were added to the ballot (a: toy accessories must comply with the toy standard and b: clarifying wording regarding 16CFR 1509).

Corner Post Task Group provided their report: Proposed revisions as presented were thought to be more confusing. Some members feel that the sole problem deals with corner posts that are 3" or larger. New task group formed and will look at it from that view point.

Incident Data Review: Kitty Pilarz presented incident data received from CPSC. She discussed how each sub-committee chairman should receive their data annually and that they need to review and present it accordingly.

Bassinet Attachments: In response to the fatal IDI presented last meeting, a task group was established to help develop wording for standards that deals with the design of the product and how manufacturers can make the designs more consumer friendly. This wording was reviewed and discussed. It was decided to consider it as a guideline for all subcommittee chairs to consider, since it is not a performance requirement.

New Business: CPSC staff alerted the subcommittee to the inflatable play yard that Australian officials reported was involved in a death. To the best of everyone's knowledge, it is not available for sale in the US. Sub-committee was in agreement that such a product would not pass the current ASTM standard, thus no action taken. Subcommittee members welcomed getting information regarding foreign products that result in incidents in other countries.

Commercial Cribs

New Standard – Reviewed the boiler plate wording for the new standard. Discussed the test methods:

- a) Elevator threshold test – CPSC staff is tasked to find the vertical allowable displacement by the ASME code for elevator doors.
- b) Crib static weight testing – Discussed formula to calculate amount of static load required for the test.
- c) Drop Side Testing – 500 cycles with 30# added at the middle. Weight and cycle numbers developed not out of incident or expected use but from testing done by some of the testing labs.
- d) Wracking Test – Used the Canadian SOR 86 standard (method M-12) and the UL standard and the test lab did not find any failures with the two cribs tested.
- e) Wood Screws – Discussions to ban all wood screws in commercial cribs, regardless of who installs them. The issue that some manufacturers use wood screws as a redundant or back up connection to a glued and tendon joint was raised. Currently as drafted, this practice would not be allowed. Alternatives considered was to limit wood screws that are the sole means of connection. Or to remove any wood screws, then test.

The task group is asking the sub committee to test their own cribs to all of these tests to see if they pass.

Tuesday September 26, 2006

Full Size Cribs

Review of the Main Committee Ballot: This ballot dealt with updating the warnings. Some of the warnings are being proposed to be visible on the product, when they were not before. Three of the four negatives were found non-persuasive. One negative was found persuasive because, based on the minutes of the last meeting; a couple of the warnings should not have been balloted as being required to be visible. The ballot must go out again to uphold the non-persuasive votes and to confirm the persuasive.

Corner Post Task Group– There was a short discussion of what transpired in the Non-Full Size meeting on this subject just so that it will be consistent between the two sub-committees.

Toy accessories clause (same as the one in Non-full size) will be balloted as a separate item so as to not confuse what is on the current ballot.

Crib Slat Task Group – BV testing lab presented the data regarding humidity and slat strength. Although there is some correlation between lower humidity (or moisture in the wood) and lower strength, the forces required to separate the slat/rail connections were all still high. More work is needed to determine where next to go. The chairman decided to schedule a conference call with the task group for sometime in October to see what further work can be done.

Hardware Task Group Report – Dave Campbell presented a proposal to deal with hardware based on some of the information discussed at the Commercial Crib meeting. No performance based tests were proposed, but instead the following:

- A minimum torque requirement without stripping out for all manufacturer supplied screws.
- For screws installed by consumers, the quality of the wood must be good enough so that if a torque increasing feature is used, it passes a minimum torque requirement without the feature.
- Machine screws must be provided with some sort of anti loosening design feature.
- Other fasteners still to be looked at.
- Plastic parts – proposing a design guideline to provide additional information.

Dave to finalize the proposal and send it out to manufacturers and other task group members for review and comment.

Toys

Acoustics Working Group – A review of the ISO standard which is currently in the development/balloting stage was conducted.

Cords and Elastics – The task group recommend no expansion or changes to this section at this point.

Flammability – The task group is waiting for input from CPSC Compliance (Frank Krivda) on the method of determining a ‘major axis’ described in Annex A4. Request for information has been sent, but no response back. Jonathan will get feedback to task group chair.

Hemisphere Shaped Objects – A proposal to allow for an additional option of a single hole of a minimum size was reviewed. The task group will also look at surface area as the qualifier for an option.

Jaw Entrapment – The proposal was updated to limit the scope of the intended products. The task group presented it for ballot consideration.

Magnets – The task group discussed the past meetings and brought everyone up to date. Comments provided by a pediatrician doctor with experience with the hazard were discussed. He said that the size is not important – assuming it can be ingested. Same thing with strength of the magnets.

Reviewed the testing proposals – three task group members bought magnets and tested them, using the 8/22/06 proposal (3 foot drop test only). No failures noted. The products were then sent to CPSC where additional testing was done on the already tested product and failures were seen when tested to the procedure developed by CPSC staff, which increases the drop height/mass and also has a use (tension) test following the drop test.

Discussions regarding some of the IDIs and the fact that how the liberation of magnets is not fully known, some committee members are stating that the CPSC proposal is not applicable. The subcommittee wants the 8/22/06 proposal to move forward but with a required warning. The warning needs to be more communicative to the consumer. CPSC to look at it and get back to them by mid-October.

Bassinets and Cradles

Revised standard F2194-06 approved and published in March 2006. Included a change to the stability performance requirement to accommodate certain products where weights cannot be hung from the sides.

Current ballot (06-02) results reviewed. Ballot dealt with making bassinet attachments to play yards comply with F2194, updating the warnings and updating a reference. One negative to the change in warnings requirement was received. It was found to be non-persuasive.

New Business: A request was brought up to look at co-sleepers as a product and develop a standard in an effort to ensure these products are safe, considering the number of co-sleeping deaths. Discussions regarding whether or not ASTM can develop a standard without data. Sub-committee has requested a data search from CPSC for any incidents related to co-sleeping products.

Changing Tables

Ballot results discussed. The ballot proposed a revision with barrier requirements and was also expanded to include contour pads and add on changing units. Two negatives were received.

The issue of whether or not straps should be required on changing tables was revisited. A task group was formed to explore this.

Infant Swings

The structural integrity proposed revisions to the standard were reviewed. In addition, a leg opening requirement (similar to high chairs) was proposed. Other task group reports included Seat Attachments, Falling Out, and Restraints. The sub-committee chair recommended that manufacturers take the proposed revisions and test their swings to it and then come back with comments or suggestions.

Revisions to the standard requiring requirements for battery compartments were also discussed.

Wednesday September 27, 2006

Gates/Enclosures

A review of the ballot results was conducted. Several negatives relating to the new openings requirement were received because it is different from that of the other standards. Other negatives received dealt with the testing requirement for lead and whether or not to change it to the one required in the toy standard. The subcommittee did not see a need to make that change due to lack of incident data. The negatives were found to be non-persuasive. The last ballot item dealt with the requirement for a push out test. Four negatives were received and reviewed.

Bath Seats

The 2005 ballot results regarding the updated warnings were reviewed. The non-persuasive rulings were upheld. These changes will be made on the next revision of the standard.

The 2006 ballot results were discussed: Three items

- 1) Scope revision (to exclude bath tubs): there were no negatives.
- 2) The latching and locking revision also received no negatives, and
- 3) The stability revision received two negatives, but one was withdrawn before the meeting. The other (Besson) was discussed. The sub-committee voted and found it to be non-persuasive.

The ballot must go out again to uphold this ruling. Based on a comment received, the ordering of the items in 7.4.1 was modified for clarity.

Infant Bath Tubs

A draft of the new standard, as developed by the task group was reviewed and finalized. This finalized draft will go out to subcommittee ballot.

Booster Seats

Ballot results for the new standard were reviewed. The draft standard will need to be re-balloted with the updated changes.

Folding Chairs

The draft standard ballot results were reviewed. Two negatives were received and voted to be non-persuasive. The draft standard will need to be re-balloted to uphold the non-persuasive ruling.

High Chairs

Ballot results for the revised standard were reviewed. The revision deals with the tray disengagement/latch accessibility, toy attachments, and editorial changes. All negatives were voted non-persuasive. The ballot needs to be sent back out for upholding the non-persuasive rulings.

The passive crotch restraint section was reworded to clarify the intent that it is required when the tray presents a bounded opening situation. To be sent out to ballot.

During the certification committee meeting, questions regarding interpretations for the test labs for certifying high chairs occurred. How those interpretations might affect the standard was discussed.

The incident data was reviewed and it was noted that there were two deaths in high chairs where the children fell thru the side of the high chair and got entrapped. There are no requirements for openings on the sides of high chairs, just the front. A task group will look at this issue.

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Bed Rails

The results from the ballot to 1) expand the scope of the standard (to include brand specific bed rails) and 2) to add an additional mattress platform was discussed. Two negatives were found to be non-persuasive. The ballot needs to be sent back out for upholding the non-persuasive rulings.

Mattress 1 Task Group – Research was conducted to find a source for test mattresses. Some were available and a list of sources for the mattress was passed out.

Breakage Task Group—The proposed new requirement was presented. Some of the wording needs to be massaged. (Cracks added in failure criteria, order sequence of testing, and removal of words in failure criteria, and a 90 degree limitation on test force). It was recommended that additional testing on a variety of bed rails be conducted by BV labs. In addition, The First Years needs to test their own bed rails. CPSC to send exemplar purchased samples to BV. Results are due back by Jan 15th.

Assembly Incidents – The subcommittee chair reviewed the request from CPSC to address the proper assembly of various bed rail designs. A task group was formed to look at the products and determine the feasibility of the request.

Strollers

The ballot results were reviewed. Negatives were received on the section regarding the tray entrapment requirement. The discussion centered around whether or not the tray needs to be replaced after the torso probe test but before the sphere test. The negative was found to be persuasive and thus more work is needed to develop the requirement. CPSC staff pointed out that there was a recent death relating to this issue and thus urgency is still required. A new task group was formed for this task. Staff to provide a copy of IDI 060726HCC3708 to subcommittee.

Mike Baughman from Bob's Trailers negative regarding the stability change to the standard was discussed. He conducted his own data search through the CPSC clearinghouse. He claims the data doesn't support using a heavy load as written in the ballot. His negative was found persuasive and a task group was formed to look at the data.

Stroller False Latching Task Group – A request was made to update the data and then the task group will look at it.

Walkers

Leg Opening Requirement – Based on what is developed in the Stationary Activity Center meeting, that requirement will be added to the walker standard.

Frame Carriers

The new standard is through the system and should be officially approved by ASTM in October 2006.

ERGO (manufacturer) came in and gave a presentation regarding their product and showed why it fails the leg opening requirement of the new standard. Their soft carrier is not fully enclosed – it uses the parent's body as part of the support. Based on the design, it is not clear whether or not the hazard is the same. A task group was put together to look at the product and assess whether or not there is any hazard.