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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.09 for Home Playground Equipment.

DATE OF MEETING: March 16, 1995

PLACE: ASTM Headquarters
Philadelphia, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *JPT*

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Paul Brogan, Hedstrom
Charles Brooks, CB Consulting, Inc.
Duncan Brown, Cedarworks, Inc.
David Dick, ACTS Testing Labs.
Lindsay Harris, Fisher-Price
Teri Hendy, Site Masters, Inc.

Frank Hunnewell, Child Life, Inc.
Ron Lynn, Gym-N-I Playgrounds
Jean Schappet, Woodset, Inc.
Chuck Obendorf, Step 2 Corporation
Darrin Earhart, Roadmaster Corp.
Joe Wilkerson, Roadmaster

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

It was noted that a letter from Lindsay Harris was omitted from the minutes of the 1/11-12/95 subcommittee meeting. The letter will be an attachment to the minutes of this meeting.

In a report from CPSC, John Preston stated that the CPSC staff would brief the Commission on March 30th on options and recommendations regarding the New York City Dept. of Consumer Affairs petition requesting that the Commission mandate the ASTM voluntary standard for backyard play sets. He said that he would provide the subcommittee chairman with a copy of the briefing package just as soon as it was available. He also said he would mail to each member of the F15.09 subcommittee present at this meeting a copy of the executive summary and briefing memorandum from this briefing package.

The chairman noted that a ballot of a revision to the ASTM F1292 standard for playground surfacing systems had recently been mailed from ASTM. The revision concerned a change to the procedure for testing manufactured materials. If approved, it would require that impact tests be conducted on connecting or anchoring devices as well as on individual tile materials.

The chairman also noted that she expects that there will be a ballot of several revisions to the F1148 standard in May 1995.

There was discussion on a requirement for slides attached to large elevated decks to have handrails. It was suggested that the standard should have a separate requirement for handrails at the entrance to slides. John Preston was asked to provide the rationale for the current requirement that slide handrails must have a minimum 2 inch bend radii. There was

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also discussion on the need for slides below a certain height to have to conform to the requirement for a 10 inch long transition area.

It was noted that the current requirement for slides at Section 5.3 was confusing and should be rewritten. A manufacturer offered to perform this task.

It was the opinion of members present that "portable" playground equipment should be subject to a stability test. It was also suggested that there be a separate requirement for stability in the standard.

There was considerable discussion regarding warning labels on portable indoor/outdoor playground equipment. This was in regard to a CPSC staff suggestion that certain items of such equipment should bear a label stating that it should not be used indoors. A manufacturer of plastic equipment noted that his company had a product that was too large to be used in a private home but was, nevertheless, subject to a CPSC staff request that it bear such a warning label.

A manufacturer noted that molded plastic equipment cannot meet the requirement for Hand Gripping Components at 5.6 of the standard as it is currently written. He noted that there are about 17 million plastic climbers in use and very few injuries have been reported. Manufacturers of wood and metal equipment were reluctant to make changes to Section 5.6 but agreed to consider a proposal that would differentiate between a hand gripping component required to support full body weight from one that is provided to maintain a user's balance such as when transitioning from a standing to sitting position at the top of a slide. Two manufacturers offered to work together on a proposal to change Section 5.6.

In a discussion on instructional material addressing the need for resilient surfacing, a manufacturer stated that he did not believe that consumers would be likely to follow such instructions. He said that his company would like to propose an addition to the Operating Instructions (8.3) to instruct consumers to insure that children using home playground equipment wear a protective helmet. Considerable discussion ensued and it appeared that most other manufacturers did not believe this was desirable. It was noted that, if children were to be instructed to wear a protective helmet, the requirements addressing head entrapment in enclosed openings would have to change. John Preston noted that there had been four fatalities in Europe that resulted when children wearing helmets became entrapped. Another manufacturer stated that his company is already providing information regarding the need for resilient surfacing with their installation instructions and it is the same information that is in the CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety.

The chairman stated that any proposals for changes to the standard must reach her ASAP since her goal was to have a ballot in the mail by May 1st.

The next meeting will be held on June 27th and 28th and, if necessary, will continue till noon on the 29th.

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