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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: September 9-10, 1996 **PLACE:** ASTM Headquarters
W. Conshohocken, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *JP*

DATE OF ENTRY: September 19, 1996

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Teri Hendy, Site Masters, Inc.	Jean Schappett, Woodset
George Black, Creative Playgrounds	Francis Pavolko, Hedstrom
Mark Chamberlain, Creative Playgrounds	Tom Mazurek, Fisher-Price
David Dick, ACTS Testing Labs.	Jim Stoklosa, Fisher-Price
Fran Wallach, Total Recreation	Carl McKee, Rainbow
Rob Pepper, Child Works	Elaine Sherman, Parity
Matthew Bolland, Swing N Slide	Donna Thompson, U.N.I.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

September 9th.

Reports from other playground equipment activities were given as follows:

CPSC - John Preston announced that the CPSC chairman has scheduled a roundtable discussion on public playground safety on October 16th. The principal topic of discussion would be revisions to the CPSC handbook for public playground safety. Preston said he had copies of the invitation for anyone who had not received it.

ASTM F15.29 Subcommittee - Fran Wallach reported that the major focus of this subcommittee was the harmonization of the ASTM F1487 standard for public playground safety with the Canadian standard.

National Program for Playground Safety - Donna Thompson announced that a national plan has been published and will be announced at a press conference in Washington, DC on September 18th. Four brochures have also been published on the subject of age appropriate design, surfacing, maintenance and supervision. A National Playground Day will be held during April 1997.

The chairman announced that the response to the August 23rd ballot of revisions to the F1148 standard was greater than 60%

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and was therefore a valid ballot. She noted that a number of negative ballots had been received which would be resolved at this meeting. Following is a discussion on the negative votes.

Ballot Item 3, regarding a change in the scope to include equipment installed in child care facilities in private homes - two negative ballots. Because the subcommittee had previously ruled that these negative votes were non-persuasive, further discussion and resolution was not necessary.

Ballot Item 4, regarding inclusion of surfacing information in instructions, no negative votes.

Ballot Item 5, regarding exemption from 8.1.2 for equipment with a fall height of less than 12 inches, five negative votes. Found to be persuasive and will be addressed as new business.

Ballot Item 6, definition of rigid material, three negative votes. The negatives stated that hardness was not a measure of rigidity and suggested modulus of elasticity be used. Found to be persuasive and will be readdressed.

Ballot Item 7, regarding new anchoring instructions, no negative votes.

Ballot Item 8, regarding anchoring the lower end of suspended ropes, no negative votes.

Ballot Item 9, regarding loading of platforms, five negative votes. The negatives variously stated that the specified loads were insufficient to insure adequate platform strength. All were rules non-persuasive.

In addition to the negative ballots, several voters submitted comments with their affirmative ballots. A comment on Item 4 suggested that fall height should be measured from the top of a protective barrier rather from the platform. The subcommittee will consider this comment in the future when it defines a protective barrier.

Four negative votes submitted in a subcommittee letter ballot of a requirement for guardrails were then discussed. One negative objected to the word "recommended" and suggested that it be changed to state that guardrails are "required." The suggestion was accepted as an editorial change. The other three negatives all objected to the proposed guardrail height of 27 inches on platforms 30 inches to 48 inches above the ground.

A negative voter who was present at this meeting believed that an increase in barrier height to the proposed 27 inches would increase injuries due to falls. He said that the typical fall

incident occurs when a child is climbing over the guardrail and any increase in the height of the guardrail would increase the height of the fall. After considerable discussion a vote was taken on a motion to rule these negatives persuasive. The motion was approved and the proposal for 27 inch high guardrails on platforms between 30 and 48 inches from the ground was tabled. However, the motion did not affect the proposal for 27 inch high protective barriers on platforms from 48 to 72 inches from the ground or 33 inch high barriers on platforms over 72 inches from the ground. There will be a rebalot of the provisions for guardrails after some changes have been made.

Discussion ensued on definitions for platforms, guardrails, protective barriers and handrails. The following language was drafted.

Platform - An elevated horizontal surface intended to be used for children to stand on, as a place for play, and a transition between components with a minimum surface area of 200 in.² and a minimum dimension of 6 in. Not included in this definition would be step ladders, stairways, ramps, bridges, swinging components and slides.

Guardrail - A device around an elevated surface that prevents inadvertent falls from the elevated surface. A guardrail must be designed to discourage climbing and must not have a designated play surface of greater than 2 in. in width having less than a 30° angle from the horizontal.

Protective Barrier - An enclosing device around an elevated surface that prevents both inadvertent and deliberate attempts to pass through the device. A protective barrier must be designed to discourage climbing and must not have a designated play surface greater than 2 in. wide having less than a 30° angle from the horizontal.

Handrail - A structural member that helps children steady themselves. The grasping section of the handrail must not have a minimum cross sectional width greater than 2.36 in.

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