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**LOG OF MEETING**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.29 for Playground Equipment for Public Use

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 18-19, 1997

**PLACE:** ASTM Headquarters  
W. Conshohocken, PA

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** John Preston, ES *JP*

**DATE OF ENTRY:** June 23, 1997

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** John Preston, ES, Mark Kumagai, ESME

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Roger Amorosi, DTL	Monty Christiansen, Penn State U.
Kert Artwick, Game Time	James Druck, Playground Environments
Jay Blanke, Sportsplay	Paul Hogan, Playground Clearing House
Matt Bolland, Swing N Slide	May Lou Iverson, Iverson Associates
Scott Burton, Safety Play	Tom Norquist, Game Time
Betsy Caesar, Playcare	Jeff Olson, Consultant
Curtis Cleveland, Playworld	Robert Pepper, Childworks
Bill Duffy, NSSEA	Darryl Rarich, Playworld Systems
Jack Gonzenbach, Miracle	Lloyd Reese, Little Tikes
Mike Hayward, Little Tikes	Barry Segal, Leathers & Associates
Robert Heath, Fibar	Larry Steingraber, BCI Burke Co.
Walt Henderson, Carlisle Tire & Wheel	Bob Stluka, Miracle Recreation
Teresa Hendy, Site Masters	Donna Thompson, Univ. of N. Iowa
Tom Williams, L.A. Steelcraft	Frances Wallach, Total Recreation
Ted Illges, Woodcarpet	William Weisz, Playground Environments
Mogens Jensen, Kompan	David Hommel, Bird In Hand Works
Tom Kalousek, Rockford Park Dist.	Wesley Sutton, Game Time
Peter Kells, Henderson Rec.	Rich Mueller, Swing N Slide/Game Time
Steven King, Lanscape Structures	Edward Danneker, Playworld Systems
Mike Krygier, DTL	Kenneth Kutska, Wheaton Park Dist.
Steven Lauzun, Parkitects	

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on June 18th.

The chairman began with announcements and correspondence: CPSC staff has submitted an IDI report to the entrapment working group for review. An aquatic play equipment group is

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seeking representation on the F15.29 subcommittee to develop requirements for play equipment for use in water.

The ASTM F15 staff manager announced that the ASTM provisional standard process has been eliminated. ASTM believes that since subcommittee and main committee ballots can be held concurrently, provisional standards do not save much time.

New business: A manufacturer has requested the subcommittee to review a type of cable equipment that is fabricated from climbing net structures and is popular in Europe .

Reports from other organizations concerned with playground equipment:

CPSC: John Preston reported that the CPSC proposed revisions to the playground handbook had been mailed to over 200 people with a request for any comments to be submitted by June 30th. A motion was approved by a majority vote to request the CPSC to harmonize its handbook with the ASTM F1487 standard and Canadian standard. The subcommittee chairman stated that F15.29 will go on record to request the CPSC to seek better coordination with the ASTM F1487 requirements. One member commented that many states are requiring their public playgrounds to meet the CPSC and ASTM requirements.

ASTM Playground Surfacing Subcommittee: A provisional standard addressing accessibility of surfacing materials has been approved. At its last meeting, the subcommittee voted to revise the F1292 standard to permit an unguided free-falling portable testing device with triaxial accelerometer as an alternative to the guided headform with uniaxial accelerometer.

ASTM F15.09 Home Playground Equipment Subcommittee: Resolved the many negatives submitted in a ballot of guardrail requirements on elevated platforms and, because changes were made to the requirements, they will be reballoted. The subcommittee will also ballot requirements for access/egress (rung ladders, step ladders and stairways) and a revision of the requirements for climbing ropes. The subcommittee chairman stated that she had been informed of an upcoming ISO meeting that will discuss requirements for home playground equipment.

National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI): A board meeting was held on 6/17/97. The Netherlands has published recommendations for public playground equipment. California is requiring that all playgrounds are inspected by an NPSI certified inspector. The NRPA has made available a new audit guide text book.

Access Board: The Board will be presented with a proposed rule for accessibility to playgrounds on July 9, 1997. It is anticipated that a final rule will be published sometime in 1998.

Soft Contained Playground Equipment, ASTM F15.36: The subcommittee chairman expects a ballot of the entire standard in September 1997.

CEN: The committee has developed a streamlined approach for balloting and approval of the European standard for playground equipment. They expect a standard to be completed by September.

National Program for Playground Safety: Sponsored a playground safety workshop on June 4-7 at the University of Northern Iowa. This was well received and will be repeated in August.

An International conference on playground safety will be held during the second or third week in August 1999 at Penn State University.

International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA): Has discussed with ASTM staff interpretations of provisions in the F1487 standard. No decision has been made on who should be responsible for such interpretations. Reported that they have a list of certified products on their Web page. They are compiling comments on the proposed revisions to the CPSC Handbook.

Children Under Two Subcommittee, ASTM F15.44: The Access Board is considering an exemption from accessibility requirements for playground equipment for children under two years. A letter has been sent to the Access Board urging that no such exemption should be made.

CSA: The North American draft standard will be ready for CSA review on July 25th.

Upon completion of reports from others, the subcommittee broke into working groups to address negatives cast in a recent ballot.

Access Working Group: The access working group addressed the negatives from the main committee ballot. Cable rope climbing equipment was also discussed. The presenter requested CPSC staff to evaluate and give an opinion on the space net concept. He used a pyramid net structure as an example and said the closest space net is in New York City, but they are very common in Europe and have been in use for over 20 years. He distributed a package of information for the group to review. The group developed a list of concerns which are as follows:

1. Injury data.
2. Falls into the structure, off of the structure, between the ropes, onto ropes.
3. Falls off of the support structure.
4. Critical fall height surface requirements.
5. Structural integrity.
6. Netting grid size and rope grip/grasp size.

Entrapment, Track Ride Cable Ride Working Group: Two negatives from the main committee ballot were resolved. A new probe for identifying partially bounded openings presenting a neck entrapment hazard was demonstrated.

June 19, 1997

The subcommittee reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

IPEMA requested for an extension on the deadline for submitting comments on the proposed revisions to the CPSC Handbook. John Preston granted their request for a deadline of July 10th.

Dates for the next three meetings are: September 17 from 1-5 p.m. and September 18 all day at ASTM HQ. December 3 from 1-5 p.m. and December 4 all day in Orlando, FL. March 4, 1998 from 1-5 p.m. and March 5 all day in Orlando, FL.

Working group reports from their meetings to resolve negative votes cast in the F15 Main Committee ballot that closed on May 30, 1997 follow:

Use Zone & Swings Working Group. Three negatives on the proposal to have a 6 ft use zone to the sides and at the ends of a track ride (Item 10) were ruled non-persuasive. Motion approved. The subcommittee discussed level versus non-level track rides. The subcommittee agreed that non-level track rides may require an additional use zone. The working group will continue to evaluate non-level track ride requirements.

Entrapment, Cable Rides, Track Rides, Roller Slides Working Group. A negative proposing a decrease in the depth of track ride landing platforms to 22 in. was found non-persuasive. Working group believes 36 inches is the minimum landing depth for a track ride. A figure will be provided for clarity.

Another negative regarding the width of track ride landings was found persuasive. The track ride requirements will be rewritten and rebaloted.

Access and Egress Working Group. It was noted that this working group had some carryovers from a previous ballot. However, since the working group chairman had all the paperwork concerning these issues and was not present at this meeting, they will be resolved at the September meeting.

Net climbers were discussed. Flexible Access Device requirements will be rewritten to combine arch climbers with flexible access devices.

Many negatives on Items 5 and 6 requested the current wording be maintained, especially requirements for rung diameters and use of tires. The working group found all negatives non-persuasive because rung and tire requirements are addressed in other sections of the standard. Motions were approved.

Several negatives opposed reducing the age of the minimum user from 2 years to 18 months. After much discussion on childrens' abilities and harmonization with the Canadian standard and CPSC handbook, a motion was approved to keep the minimum user age at 2 years.

The subcommittee chairman instructed the working groups to review the proposed revisions to the CPSC Handbook and develop comments. Some comments from the entrapment working group follow:

Section 6.3, Age Separation of Equipment: Equipment not recommended for preschool-age children (2-5 years). Working group believes some chain or cable walks are appropriate for preschool-age children. The working group requested clarification of Long Spiral Slides that are not recommended for preschool-age children.

Section 12.1.2 of the Handbook should keep the requirement recommending that climbers not have climbing bars in the interior of the structure to insure jungle gyms do not return, and to justify the removal of existing equipment.

Working group requested that the height of horizontal ladders for school-age children be 84 in. rather than 78 in. to harmonize with ASTM. The working group did not believe a decrease of 6 inches in height will decrease injuries. It was noted that the horizontal ladder figure (Fig. 14) needs work. If a child takes off from the deck, he may not be tall enough to exit at the end.

Balance beams (p 28). Working group requested allowing 16" for school age children to harmonize with ASTM. School age children's crotch height is above 16".

Slide run-out should increase to 12" to harmonize with ASTM.

Figures 4, 8 and 9 showing protrusions should indicate whether they pass or fail.

Figure 9. Illustrate on the figure where there is an exemption from the protrusion requirements. Also, the standing height (60 in.) should be shown in the side view.

Figure 21 conflicts with ASTM. The D3 measurement should be from the surface.

State that swing height is measured to an occupied seat.

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