

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
3/25/94
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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ASTM F15.36 Subcommittee for Soft Contained Play Systems

DATE OF MEETING: March 1,2 1994 PLACE: ASTM Headquarters, Philadelphia, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Scott Heh, ESME *ML*

DATE OF ENTRY: March 8, 1994

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Scott Heh-ESME,

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Available upon receipt of meeting minutes

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The subcommittee reviewed a draft letter from the F15.36 Chairman to the Play Area Setting Subcommittee of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. This board is responsible for establishing and adopting compliance regulations relating to the access, use and enjoyment of play areas by people with disabilities. The letter requests a delay of recommendations concerning soft contained play systems until the F15.36 subcommittee has a chance to complete work and return to the Board with recommendations and guidelines.

The subcommittee agreed to rename themselves as "Soft Contained Play Systems". The previous name was "Limited Access Contained Play Systems." The subcommittee work groups (Entrapment, Materials, Access/Egress, Equipment, Layout, Maintenance, and Terminology) met individually to continue work developing requirements for the new standard.

The subcommittee met as a whole again on March 2 so that work group chairman could present summaries of their efforts. It was agreed that the Layout Work Group would only consider areas on the perimeter of the play system. The Equipment Work Group would cover every component within the system. The Equipment Work Group developed a unique concept for the term "use-zone" as a sphere of space that follows with the user as he moves about within the structure. It was agreed that the Maintenance Work Group will also handle operations issues. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be held in Philadelphia on June 14 and 15, 1994.

cc: John Preston, ESME
Jean Kennedy, CECA
Colin Church, EXHR
OS (2)
ES
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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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

DATE OF MEETING: March 2, 1994

PLACE: ASTM Headquarters, Philadelphia, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Scott Heh, ESME *SH*

DATE OF ENTRY: March 8, 1994

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Scott Heh-ESME,

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Available upon receipt of meeting minutes

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The meeting was devoted to addressing issues raised by CPSC staff for subcommittee consideration. The majority of these issues came from the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs petition requesting the CPSC to develop a mandatory standard for home playground equipment. I briefly described the Commission procedures for responding to a petition and the type of information that would be included in the staff briefing package on the petition.

Subcommittee members stated that if the CPSC studies industry conformance to the ASTM standard, it is suggested that the study be based on the 1991 revision rather than the 1993 revision of the standard. Their rationale was that there is always some lag time for products on the market to meet requirements of a new revision to the standard.

The subcommittee agreed to hold off on examining the need for impact requirements for multiple-occupancy swings until CPSC completes their study on swing impact incidents.

A swing hanger test proposed by CPSC staff to replace the current test procedure raised some testing issues regarding different types of bearing configurations connected to the support beam. The subcommittee generally agreed with the concept. Two members will contact J. Preston to discuss the testing issues raised.

The subcommittee agreed to examine the issue of requiring anchoring of backyard play equipment. Two manufacturers will test swing sets to examine the need for revising the swing set stability test. The Subcommittee Chair will contact manufacturers of plastic, portable type of equipment to address the issue of anchoring climbers and other types of equipment.

The subcommittee felt that the issue of providing information regarding acceptable types and amounts of playground surfacing was important. Certain meeting participants felt that a meeting between interested subcommittee members and CPSC staff is needed to discuss industry concerns and CPSC staff expectations on this issue.

The issue of designated play surfaces to be less than 6 feet high was tabled until after the surfacing issue is considered. The subcommittee discussed that the public wants higher equipment and if the appropriate surfacing is used, it should not be a concern.

T. Hendy and F. Wallach will examine the issue of multiple component structures creating use-zone hazards. The group felt that there is no evidence to show that swings suspended from overhead horizontal ladders present an injury hazard, especially since that design has been around for many years. However, some members did state that designs are becoming more complex with many more overlapping use-zones than had been used in early equipment designs.

The Subcommittee Chair will send rationale for current swing spacing requirements to the subcommittee for review. The subcommittee felt that there is no injury data or other evidence to show that current swing spacing is presenting a hazard. They recently revised the spacing requirements to increase the distance between a swinging element and support uprights based on incidents of children hitting support uprights while swinging.

There was general agreement that requirements for guardrails on platforms needs to be examined. Since this area seems to particularly apply to the portable, plastic equipment, the Home Playground Equipment Chair will contact this industry to request their input in examining provisions for platform guardrails and barriers.

The Subcommittee Chair will draft a proposal to prohibit free swinging rope swings on home playground equipment. There was agreement within the group on this proposal.

The Subcommittee discussed the issue of adding child care facilities to the scope of the home playground equipment standard. F. Wallach will look into differences among individual states as to what is considered a day care center, a home care center, etc. There was general agreement that home care centers should be added to the scope of the standard.

ACTS test lab will look into stability and/or restraint requirements for tot swings. It was discussed that tot swings are typically intended for children under 2, outside the scope of the standard.

The next meetings will be held in Philadelphia on June 15, 1994 from 9:00 am to 5 pm, followed by Sept. 28, 1994 and Jan. 11, 1995.

cc: John Preston, ESME
Jean Kennedy, CECA
Colin Church, EXHR
Manon Boudreault, EPHA
Celestine Trainor, EPHF
Frank Krivda, CERM
Harleigh Ewell, GCRA
Mary Donaldson, ECSS
Suad Nakamura, HSPS
Elaine Tyrrell, EXPA
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