

§ 1207.2

16 CFR Ch. II (1-1-04 Edition)

or injury from accidents are associated with swimming pool slides. These risks are (i) quadriplegia and paraplegia resulting from users (primarily adults using the swimming pool slide for the first time) sliding down the slide in a head first position and striking the bottom of the pool, (ii) leg fractures resulting from feet first entry, (iii) impact of sliders with other people in the pool, and (iv) falls from the slide ladder.

(2) The Commission finds that the types or classes of products that are subject to this standard are those swimming pool slides manufactured, constructed, or imported for use in connection with all swimming pools, whether in-ground, on-ground, or above-ground, regardless of the materials of manufacture or structural characteristics of the slides. It is estimated that 350,000 of these slides are currently in service and that each year the number of slides in use may increase by 5 to 10 percent.

(3) The Commission finds that the public uses swimming pool slides in recreation at both public and private swimming pools, and it is estimated that 75% of these slides are located at residential pools. It is anticipated that public demand for the products will decline slightly for a time following issuance of this standard as a result of consumer awareness of hazards associated with the product caused by the mandatory signs placed on the slides and as a result of recommendations regarding the installation and intended use of the products. The decline in demand is expected to be short-term. It is anticipated that the utility of the slides as a recreational device will be increased to the extent that injury or death associated with the use of the product is eliminated or reduced.

(4) The Commission also finds that manufacturing cost increases as a di-

court's decision. However, the findings have not been revised and they are therefore not fully applicable to the revised swimming pool slide requirements. For example, the revised standard does not address the risk of quadriplegia and paraplegia (except insofar as the standard specifies a low angle of attack of the slider into the water) because the court set aside the provisions concerning installation instructions and warning signs.

rect result of this standard and promotional cost increases as an indirect result of this standard are expected to be modest for the industry as a whole. Any resulting increase in the cost of slides to consumers attributable directly or indirectly to the requirements of this standard will be small. No adverse effect on the availability of the product to consumers is expected.

(5) The Commission has considered other means of achieving the objective of the standard, but has found none that would have fewer adverse effects on competition or that would cause less disruption or dislocation of manufacturing and other commercial practices, consistent with the public health and safety.

(6) The Commission also finds that this standard, including its effective date, is reasonably necessary to eliminate or reduce the unreasonable risks of injury associated with swimming pool slides and that promulgation of the standard is in the public interest.

[41 FR 2751, Jan. 19, 1976; 41 FR 9307, Mar. 4, 1976, as amended at 41 FR 23187, June 9, 1976; 43 FR 58813, Dec. 18, 1978]

§ 1207.2 Effective date.

This part 1207 shall become effective July 17, 1976. All swimming pool slides manufactured after that date must meet the requirements of this part 1207.

[41 FR 23187, June 9, 1976]

§ 1207.3 Definitions.

(a) As used in this part 1207:

(1) *Aboveground pool slide ladder* means a slide ladder that is not anchored in the ground or support deck and that can be removed from the slide or hinged and locked so that unauthorized or unsupervised use of the slide is prevented.

(2) *Abrasion hazard* means a sharp or rough surface of a swimming pool slide that would scrape the skin upon casual contact.

(3) *Assembled product* means all parts, components, and fasteners as defined in and assembled according to the manufacturer's assembly and installation instructions.

(4) *Bracing* means members providing structural support to the assembled, installed slide.

(5) *Casual contact* means contact of any body part with the slide occurring by chance or nonchalant encounters.

(6) *Center of gravity* means the point that represents the mean position of the concentrated mass of a body.

(7) *Curved slide* means a slide whose runway curves out of the vertical plane at any point along the slide path.

(8) *Cutting hazard* means a slide surface that would cut the skin under casual contact.

(9) *Designated waterline* means the horizontal line through whichever of the following is applicable: (i) The mid-point of the operating range of the skimmers, or (ii) on pools with overflow systems, the height of the overflow rim.

(10) *Edge guards* means shields designed to cover sharp edges on slides.

(11) [Reserved]

(12) *Freestanding slide* means a slide designed for aboveground pools that is not fastened to the pool deck or the ground. This slide may have attachments to the aboveground pool to prevent misalignment.

(13) *Friction* means the force tending to reduce the velocity of the slider on the slide.

(14) [Reserved]

(15) *Intended use* means behavior on swimming pool slides as disclosed by the manufacturer, as specified in this part 1207, or to which the slide may be subjected by a reasonable user (including reasonably foreseeable misuse).

(16) *Ladder angle* means the angle of the ladder measured from a plumbline.

(17) *Ladder platform* means a platform built into the slide ladder.

(18) *Operational strength* means the strength of the slide and/or its components after installation according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(19) *Performance test* means a test to measure the functional or structural characteristics of the slide and may include:

(i) Observations and measurements of the slide's functioning in the "intended use" mode, installed according to the manufacturer's installation instructions, and/or

(ii) Observations and measurements of the slide's response to dynamic and static loads.

(20) [Reserved]

(21) *Pinching hazard* means any configuration of slide components that would pinch or entrap the fingers or toes of a child or an adult.

(22) *Puncture hazard* means any slide surface or protrusion that would puncture a child's skin under casual contact.

(23) *Runway* means the surface on which the user slides in the intended use of a slide.

(24) *Runway rail* means a raised edge or guard that keeps the slider on the runway.

(25) *Runway length* means the length of the runway measured along its centerline.

(26) *Slide width* means the width of the slide runway measured between the inside of the left and right runway rails.

(27) *Straight slide* means a slide whose runway curves only in the vertical plane.

(28) *Swimming pool slide* means any device used to enter a swimming pool by sliding down an inclined plane.

(29) *Tamperproof* means that tools are required to alter or remove portions of the slide such as guards, treads, etc.

(30) *Trajectory* means the path of a slider's center of gravity from start to finish.

(31) [Reserved]

(32) *Tread contact surface* means foot contact surfaces of ladder, step, stair, or ramp.

[41 FR 2751, Jan. 19, 1976, as amended at 43 FR 58813, Dec. 18, 1978]

§ 1207.4 Recommended standards for materials of manufacture.

(a) *General.* The materials used in swimming pool slides should be compatible with man and compatible with the environment in which they are installed. These materials should be capable of fulfilling the design requirements prescribed by § 1207.5.

(b) *Effects of environment.* The choice of materials for swimming pool slides should be such that the operational strength of the entire slide assembly, as defined by the performance tests in