

**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
LOG OF TELEPHONE CALL**

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SUBJECT: Handbook for Public Playground Safety

DATE OF TELEPHONE CALL: June 4, 2001

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Scott Heh *JAL*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: June 5, 2001

LOCATION: ESME

CPSC PARTICIPANT(S): Scott Heh

NON-CPSC PARTICIPANT(S): Janet Strait, Freeville, NY

SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CALL: I called Ms. Janet Strait in response to a letter that she sent to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding the CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety (Handbook). In her letter, Ms. Strait asked if insurance companies are regulated to adhere to the Handbook. She also asked if a playground can be inspected by an insurance company and deemed mechanically safe while not adhering to the Handbook's guidelines.

In our conversation, I explained that the CPSC Handbook is not a regulation or a mandatory standard. Therefore, insurance companies are not regulated to follow the CPSC Handbook. I said that I do not know to what extent insurance companies rely on the Handbook for underwriting purposes. I told her that I am aware that certain states and many local jurisdictions (e.g., county parks, school districts) have mandated the CPSC recommendations for playgrounds within their jurisdiction.

Ms. Strait asked if the Handbook has a "grandfather clause" for older playgrounds. I answered that since the Handbook is not a federal law, a grandfather clause does not apply. However, for those local jurisdictions that have mandated the Handbook, they may have each dealt with older playgrounds in different manners. She thanked me for the information and said she would check with her state and local laws.