

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meetings of ASTM Juvenile Products Sections for Toddler Beds, Baby Gates, High Chairs, Strollers, Cribs, Play Yards, and Walkers

DATE: October 3-5, 1994

PLACE: ASTM Headquarters
1916 Race St.
Philadelphia, PA

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ESME *JP*

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

John Preston, ESME

William Kennedy, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES

Perry McGlothan, Century
Robert Craig, B & R Consulting
Kitty Pilarz, Fisher-Price
Gary Christman, Evenflo
Bob Schwartzkopf, Sassy
E. Tarnow, Child's TV Workshop
Werner Frietag, Consumer
Karl Chien, Angel Line
Georgina Dahlgren, UL
Jeff Liplo, Inchcape Testing
Owen Jones, J.C. Penney
Nate Saint, Graco
Mary Kay Pompetti, Consumer
Richard Glover, Cosco
Drew Merkel, Baby Trand
Roy Duke, Entela Labs.
Clare Murnane, JPMA
Gary Sealy, J. Mason Products
Paul Ware, Safety 1st
Tom Garland, Garland Co.
Keith Moehring, Simmons
Ken Waldman, Simplicity

Terry Emerson, Cosco
Cecil Cantry, Nelson
Dave Campbell, Fisher-Price
Jack Walsh, The Danny Foundation
Tom Ushio, Gerry
Curt Gipp, Gerry
Chris Clarkson, DTL
Al Kozak, ACTS Testing Labs.
John Zurcher, IKEA
John Kearney, Hasbro
Ron Hoffman, Graco
Jude Emnace, Stork Craft
Francois Dignard, Health Canada
Matt Eichenberger, Racing Stroll.
Mary Ellen Fise, Consumer
Jerry Drobinski, Revmark
Bill Suvak, Child Craft
Bob Hart, Gerry
Art Kazianis, Hasbro
Kellen Watkins, Peg Perego
Carole Rhodes, Bandack Emmaljunga

NOTE: Not all of the above representatives attended every meeting.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS:

October 3rd.

TODDLER BEDS, ASTM F15.40 - Fifth draft of standard, developed at July 22nd meeting, was presented to the toddler bed section members. CPSC staff voiced objection to requirement addressing

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guardrail entrapment and noted that a toddler bed guardrail recalled in June 1994 because of an entrapment hazard would meet the proposed requirement. This requirement will be rewritten. There was considerable discussion regarding warning labels and some CPSC suggestions were accepted. An interim meeting, probably in January 1995, will be held to complete this standard.

Baby Gates, ASTM F15.40.21 - Almost the entire meeting was devoted to revising the warning statements that are required on gates. Following is the new language:

WARNING

TO AVOID SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH
INSTALL GATE SECURELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH
MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.
USE ONLY WHEN CHILD IS UNABLE TO CLIMB
OR DISLODGE THE GATE.
NEVER LEAVE CHILD UNATTENDED.

High Chairs, ASTM F15.40.04 - John Preston reported that CPSC had received reports of three additional submarining deaths in high chairs since the March 1994 meeting of this section. A draft of a requirement for passive restraints was discussed. However, it was not accepted since the only high chair currently in production that has a passive restraining system would not meet the draft requirement in its current form. John Preston was asked to search CPSC incident data to determine if there are serious injuries resulting from children climbing or falling out of high chairs.

Preston stated that he was aware of a number of incidents in which a specific high chair had tipped over despite that fact that it conformed to the stability requirements in the voluntary standard. He noted that, when the chair is placed on a carpeted surface, the force required to tip it over is less than that required to tip it on a tiled floor. After discussion, high chair manufacturers were asked to perform stability tests on their products to determine if chairs not known to have been involved in tipping incidents will withstand overturning forces of 18 lbf fore and aft, and 14 lbf sideways. Manufacturers were also instructed to perform the tests with the chairs on a slope of 1 in 36. The current standard requires chairs to withstand an 11 lbf force in all directions on a level surface.

A ballot of the high chair standard containing revisions suggested by an ad hoc committee will be mailed during November 1994.

Strollers, ASTM F15.40.08 - Attendees were informed that a revision of the stroller standard has been mailed for concurrent ballot by the F15.40 Juvenile Products Subcommittee and F15 Main Committee. The revision addresses entrapment in stroller leg openings and collapse of umbrella style strollers. With the

minutes of this meeting, members will receive a copy of the entire stroller standard containing revisions in accordance with the ad hoc committee recommendations and requirements addressing forwards excursion of a restrained occupant.

There was discussion on whether jogging strollers should conform to the ASTM standard for carriages and strollers. It was agreed that they should conform but, the higher speed at which they are pushed may require additional requirements for the security of the occupant. It was reported that a CPSC staff search of incidents revealed only four complaints regarding jogging strollers. Three of these involved contact with the wheels by the occupant's hands and the fourth alleged that the stroller was unstable. According to several members present at the meeting, many jogging strollers are designed with minimal rearward stability in order to improve their handling during normal use. Because of this, they may tip over when facing upwards on an incline.

October 4th.

CRIBS, F15.40.24 - It was noted that a new standard for non-full-size cribs has been mailed to subcommittee and main committee members for a concurrent ballot. Meanwhile, the standard for full-size cribs (ASTM F1169) will go out for an automatic reballot.

There was discussion on proposed requirements to address collapsing top rails of mesh cribs/play yards submitted by John Preston and Bob Craig. It was noted that Section 5.6.2 of the non-full size crib standard addresses latches and requires that they engage automatically and either require a dual-action for release or the release force must not be less than 10 lbf. However, these requirements were not intended to address products employing a rotating hinge as a latching device. After some considerable discussion, the following language was drafted:

"Crib designs requiring latching or locking of a top rail(s) to prevent folding which include a central hinge(s) and rail assembly that moves downward when folded shall have a locking device which automatically engages when placed in a manufacturer's recommended use position.

No top rail shall give the appearance of being in the manufacturer's recommended use position unless the locking device is fully engaged."

October 5th.

PLAY YARDS, ASTM F15.40.05 - There was further discussion on a requirement for play yards/mesh cribs that have a rotating latch in the center of the top rails. It was agreed that the same

requirement drafted for mesh cribs was appropriate for play yards with the substitution of the word 'play yard' for "crib."

After a discussion of language for a warning statement regarding collapse of play yards if the rotating latch is not fully engaged, a motion was approved to state that a warning is not necessary if engagement of the latches is automatic.

There was discussion of the draft of the revised play yard standard that had been distributed with the minutes of the last meeting. A motion was approved to move the warning regarding play yards with removable top rails (5.6 of the current standard) from the product to the instructions.

A motion was approved to substitute the language in the toddler bed standard addressing removal of components for that which had been drafted at the March 1, 1994 meeting (Attachment 4 to minutes of that meeting).

WALKERS, ASTM F15.40.20 - John Preston and Bill Kennedy summarized the CPSC walker rulemaking activities. Copies of a CPSC staff memo regarding the preliminary findings from the CPSC special study of walker incidents was distributed. The memo stated that 236 telephone investigations had been completed and falls down stairways accounted for 80% of the children who had been treated in hospital emergency rooms. The memo also stated that the width of 85% of the stairway openings that had been measured by CPSC investigators were 36 inches or less. It also stated that about 80% of walkers involved in stair fall incidents bore the stair fall warning label required by the ASTM walker standard.

CPSC staff stated that a performance requirement is being developed that will contain a test similar to that in a Canadian voluntary standard. A significant difference between the test in the Canadian standard and that being developed by CPSC is the inclusion of a step in front of the simulated door opening. Staff also stated that focus group panels will be conducted to obtain consumer opinions on the desirability of certain stationary walker alternatives that have recently been offered for sale.

In response to a question regarding whether the CPSC focus group panels will test walker warning labels, staff responded that this was not currently planned.

A revision of the stairs warning label was discussed and it was agreed that it would be changed to state:

Block stairs securely before putting child in walker

In regard to the required 1994 review of the current ASTM walker standard, comments on the requirements for label permanency and the language of the stairs warning label were requested. CPSC staff was asked to provide a new introduction for the walker standard.

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