

MEETING LOG

X 5/2/98

Date : January 18, 1995
Place : 200 Fifth Avenue
Purpose : Meeting of the "Under 3" Workgroup of the ASTM Toy Safety Subcommittee

Attendees : Betsy Borrelli (TMA), Malcolm Denniss (Hasbro), David Miller (TMA), Frank Olbrych (Lego), James Walter (ACTS Testing), Marilyn Wind (CPSC), and Karl Wojon (Mattel)

The sub-committee dealt with the three issues Chairman Brown requested be included in the ASTM Toy Safety Voluntary Standard- 1) pom-pons; 2) string length; and 3) small toy figures.

Celestine Trainor provided the sub-committee with Commission data on all these topics in December. The sub-committee, therefore reconsidered these areas based upon the new data.

Pom-pon(m) s

There was general agreement after reviewing the in-depth reports that the problem was pom-pons that came off whatever they were attached to. It was agreed that it was the intact pom-pon that was the problem, not pieces of yarn that might come off the pom-pon. The group defined a pom-pon as "a component that comprises lengths or strands of fiber that are clamped in the center and brushed up to form a ball shape." The group also agreed that pom-pons on toys intended for children under the age of three should be subjected to use and abuse testing by applying a 3/4" clamp as close to the point of attachment as possible. (It was agreed that Malcolm would talk to the Eden and Gund people about the best way to do this test and I agreed that I would consult with the Engineering Laboratory.) The liberated pom-pon would be applied to a 1.75" gauge (the same one proposed for balls in the Child Safety Act). If the pom-pon passed through the 1.75" gauge under its own weight, the toy would fail.

String Length

After reviewing the data the members of the working group concluded that there was nothing presented that was different from what they had seen previously. They did not believe that the data demonstrated that there was a hazard. In order for an injury to occur, they believe that it would require at least two very rare occurrences which would make the likelihood of occurrence extremely unlikely.

Small Toy Figures

All present agreed that there was a certain size and shape

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of toy figure that was hazardous. It was also agreed that the majority of major manufacturers were aware of the hazard and were designing away from that size and shape. However, it was also acknowledged that smaller companies and foreign companies were not aware of the problem. It was agreed that the best way to make them aware of the problem was by having a requirement in the voluntary standard. All agreed that the problem was simple round ended objects that taper down from the round end and that have no appendages; it was also agreed that a 1.5 inch fixture would be appropriate to test the figure. We agreed to all look around while at Toy Fair to see what we would capture with the proposed definition and try to determine whether it is too broad or too limited.

We will meet again in March. Initially it was suggested that the meeting be held in Orlando in conjunction with the Safety meeting but I said that I wasn't going to that meeting. If I cannot go to that meeting the meeting will be held in New York in mid March.