

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CPSA 6 (b)(7) Cleared  
X 5/20/97  
No Mfrs/PrvtLbrs or  
Products Identified  
\_\_\_\_ Excepted by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Firms Notified,  
Comments Processed.

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of Committee to Harmonize ASTM & Canadian Standard for Public Playground Equipment

**DATE:** May 12, 1997

**PLACE:** CPSC HQ, 4330 East West Hwy.  
Bethesda, MD

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** John Preston, ES *JP*

**DATE OF ENTRY:** May 20, 1997

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

John Preston, ES  
Debbie Tinsworth, EHHA

Jean Kennedy, CCA  
Celestine Trainor, ESHF

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Mike Hayward, Little Tikes Commercial Play Systems  
Dr. Frances Wallach, Total Recreation Management Services, Inc.  
Kert Artwick, Game Time  
Daryl Rarich, Playworld Systems  
Bob Stluka, Miracle Recreation Equipment Co.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and attempt to resolve the differences in requirements in the ASTM and Canadian playground equipment standards and the recommendations in a proposed revision of the CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety.

John Preston apologized that he was not able to distribute copies of the draft proposed revisions to the CPSC Handbook because it had not yet received its final internal clearance. However, Preston stated that he could freely discuss some of the more significant proposed revisions. Following are some of the more significant proposed revisions and comments on these expressed by the non-Commission attendees.

1. Exclusion of soft contained, water play and exercise trail equipment.

Staff noted that exercise equipment on or adjacent to a playground would not be exempt. May have to be more specific on what is meant by adjacent.

- 4.3.1 Addition of recommendations for maximum equipment height:  
Preschool-Age - 4 ft (swings 8 ft & horizontal ladders 5 ft).  
School-Age - 8 ft. (horizontal ladders 78 in.).



- 11.6 Addition of recommendation for 15 in. max. width of guardrail openings (except for openings to stairs, ramps and upper body equipment).

It was noted that this is not exactly the same as the ASTM requirement. Staff will consider a change.

- 12.1.7 Change stating that climbing ropes are not recommended.

The manufacturers present at the meeting asked if this proposal would include steel cable. Staff responded that was not the intent and if the proposal remains in the Handbook, this would be clarified.

- 12.3 Addition of seesaw recommendations (25° max slope and 60 in. max. seat height) per ASTM.

No comments.

- 12.4.4 Change in the recommendations for slides with a circular cross section per ASTM.

No comments.

- 12.6.1 Ropes not recommended as a means to suspend swings.

No comments.

- 12.6.2 Addition of recommendations for minimum height to underside of unoccupied single-axis swing seat:  
Preschool-age - 12 in. School-age - 16 in. Tot Swings - 24 in.

Non-Commission attendees stated that they believed the ASTM requirement for a 12 inch minimum seat height for all swings was adequate. There was additional discussion on whether the height should be measured to upper or lower surface of the seat and whether the measurement should be performed with or without an occupant.

Non Commission attendees asked if there was an addition addressing supervision. Staff responded that there was not. It was suggested that something should be added in this regard. Staff stated that this would be considered.

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A manufacturer stated that a 4-foot height limitation on preschool equipment was too low. He felt this should be 5 feet. However, another manufacturer stated that his company's preschool equipment had deck heights of 3 feet.

- 4.4 Exclusion of ground level equipment (sandboxes, activity panels) from recommendations for protective surfacing.

A manufacturer asked if sand tables that were elevated to enable access to children in wheelchairs would also be excluded. Staff will consider this question.

5. Deletion of no encroachment zone recommendations.

This deletion harmonizes the Handbook with the ASTM standard but the Canadian standard continues to specify no encroachment zones for some pieces of equipment.

- 5.1.1 Fall zones can overlap per ASTM.

No comments.

- 6.1 Addition of recommendations for fences per CPSC home pool guidelines (4 in. openings between bars, 5 ft min. height).

It was noted that questions may be asked as to why the openings were not limited to 3½ inches as in guardrails on elevated decks.

- 8.1 Expansion of the discussion of lead in paint.

No comments

- 9.2 Addition of warning to parents regarding drawstring hazard.

John Preston read the proposed warning. Attendees suggested that staff may want to consider adding playground safety alerts, such as the one addressing drawstrings, to the back of the Handbook that could be copied by persons receiving the revised Handbook and used to promote playground safety.

- 9.4 Addition of protrusion requirements (upwards facing & on slides) per ASTM.

No comments.

- 10.3.1 Change to handrail height recommendations:  
Preschool-Age: between 22 in. and 26 in.  
School-Age: between 22 in. and 38 in.

Non Commission attendees will consider this change to the ASTM and Canadian standards.