



## MEETING LOG

**SUBJECT:** ASTM F15.30 Subcommittee on Bunk Beds

**FY 25 OP PLAN ENTRY:** [Not on the FY 25 Op Plan]

**DATE OF MEETING:** 11/18/2024

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** Virtual

**CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG:** Tim Smith (ESHF)

**FILING DATE:** 11/18/2024

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Tim Smith (ESHF) and Daniel Taxier (ESMC)

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Contact ASTM for the full attendee list

### Summary of Meeting:

This meeting of the ASTM F15.30 Subcommittee on Bunk Beds was led by the subcommittee Chair, Anders Persson. The meeting focused on task group reports to the subcommittee:

- *Ladder Push Out Force Task Group.* The task group lead was not present and there have been no meetings since the last subcommittee meeting.
- *Stairs/Slides Task Group.* The task group has been examining stair-related requirements in the European bunk bed standard (EN 747-1 and -2) for possible requirements to be incorporated into the ASTM standard. The task group is considering requirements for horizontal spacing between stair treads and other dimensional requirements such as handrail height and vertical step height. The subcommittee also discussed possible requirements related to structural integrity and to drawers on stairs, including requirements to avoid potential tripping hazards from drawers opening or protruding into the tread area. These topics, and possible requirements related to slides, will go back to the task group for further consideration.
- *Guardrail Task Group.* The task group is developing requirements for a guardrail on the wall side of the bottom bunk. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of relying on a smaller wedge or torso probe, such as the one used in the toddler bed standard, to test for entrapment in this lower guardrail. There was concern about making sure the basis for the toddler bed torso probe dimensions made sense for bunk beds. Subcommittee members also raised the possibility of applying the smaller probe to the entire bunk bed, not just the lower bunk guardrail, for simplicity. CPSC staff noted that these topics were discussed by the task group. One member raised the question of why a guardrail requirement was being considered for a lower bunk when such a requirement is not included in the standards for other beds, like toddler beds. The consensus was because the subcommittee is aware of incidents that seem to suggest that such a requirement is needed. One member raised the question of whether the



subcommittee should consider a new warning about required spacing between a lower bunk and a wall. CPSC staff pointed out that this is being discussed in the task group as an additional requirement.

- *Age Task Group.* The task group is considering whether the current ASTM standard should be amended to address bunk beds with large upper bunks, which are aimed at adults and seemingly intended for multiple occupants despite the standard having a warning against multiple occupants, or if ASTM should have two standards: one for children's bunk beds and one for adult bunk beds. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of amending the CPSC regulations to incorporate the ASTM bunk bed standard by reference. CPSC staff pointed out that doing so would not address the issue of multiple occupants on the upper bunk because both the regulations and the ASTM standard warn against multiple occupants. One member stated that incorporating the ASTM standard would more easily allow for changes to the standard to address those warnings. Staff pointed out that the warning in the regulations were based on concerns about multiple children on the upper bunk of adult bunk beds, and that there seems to be no justification for not warning against multiple children on large upper bunks. The subcommittee chair stated that they were working on that rationale.

During the Age Task Group report, a subcommittee member raised a topic of new business about a possible requirement for reduced friction on the bottom posts of a bunk bed so the bunk bed can more easily slide if a child becomes entrapped between the bunk bed and a wall. The subcommittee noted that the effectiveness of such a requirement would likely depend on the flooring. CPSC staff also questioned whether the weight of a small child becoming entrapped would be sufficient to slide out the full weight of a bunk bed.

#### **Next Steps:**

The task groups will continue to meet and the subcommittee intends to meet again on May 2, 2025.