



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.30 Bunk Beds Guardrail Task Group Meeting

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

DATE OF MEETING: 11/19/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Tim Smith (ESHF)

FILING DATE: 11/19/2024

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Tim Smith (ESHF) and Suad Wanna-Nakamura (HSPP)

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

Summary of Meeting:

This meeting of the ASTM F15.30 Bunk Beds Guardrail task group (TG) was led by the TG chair, Stefan Svensson. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible requirements for a guardrail to be added to the lower bunk on the side closest to an adjacent wall and for warnings related to the placement of the bunk bed relative to the wall to reduce the risk of child entrapment and asphyxia between a lower bunk and a wall or other structure.

CPSC staff walked through two alternative proposals for incorporating lower bunk guardrail requirements into the ASTM F1427 voluntary standard. The proposals revise the guardrail definition to clarify that a guardrail is any rail that is attached to the side of a bed to prevent rolling or falling out, not just rails that are attached to a long side of the bed, and require a guardrail to accompany any bed in which the underside of the foundation is 30 inches or less from the floor (lower bunk). The lower-bunk guardrail would be required to be on the same side of the bunk bed as the continuous guardrail on the upper bunk and must meet the same requirements as the continuous guardrail on the upper bunk, except the lower-bunk guardrail must prevent complete passage of the wedge block currently applied to toddler beds (ASTM F1821). The only difference between the two alternative proposals was the organization of the new requirements, with alternative 1 splitting each individual guardrail requirement into upper- and lower-bunk requirements, and alternative 2 identifying all existing guardrail requirements as upper-bunk requirements and creating a new lower-bunk guardrail subsection with the new lower-bunk guardrail requirements. The consensus of the TG was that alternative 2 was preferred. The TG agreed that information about the anthropometric dimensions corresponding to the wedge block in the toddler bed standard would be helpful to support the TG's rationale for relying on that wedge block, rather than the one used elsewhere in the bunk bed standard, and CPSC staff agreed to obtain and forward this information to the TG.

The TG also discussed the proposed warning requirement about the potential for entrapment between the bunk bed and the wall or other nearby structures, and about the appropriate placement of the bunk bed to



prevent this hazard. CPSC staff agreed to look at the proposed wording of the warning statement and to provide feedback to the TG. The TG also discussed the placement of the warning statement and agreed that the statement should be included in the assembly instructions. There was substantial discussion about whether the warning statement should be incorporated into the existing ASTM warning (*e.g.*, under a separate heading) or should be a separate warning label. The TG also discussed the possibility of revising the ASTM warnings to separate the warning content required in the bunk bed regulations from the other ASTM warning content, with the new warning statement incorporated into the latter. One TG member volunteered to draft some examples of how to make these changes. Lastly, the TG discussed the possibility of requiring a hang tag with the proposed warning about bunk bed placement.

Next Steps:

The TG chair intends to circulate the information discussed in the meeting to the TG for additional off-line discussion and feedback. CPSC staff intends to provide the TG with feedback on the basis for the toddler bed wedge block dimensions and on the proposed warning language pertaining to bunk bed placement relative to a wall or other structure. The next meeting of the task group has not been scheduled but will likely take place in January 2025.