

**LOG OF MEETING  
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of the ASTM Bunk Beds Task Group

**DATE OF MEETING:** February 12, 2020

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Virtual (teleconference)

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Tim Smith (ESHF)

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Tim Smith (ESHF)

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Contact ASTM for attendee list.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

This meeting of the ASTM Bunk Beds task group was led by Harrison Toms; the Chair of the ASTM F15.30 Bunk Bed subcommittee, Bill Perdue, was unable to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss revisions to the F1427 standard to address a persuasive negative on an earlier, closed ballot item: F15 (17-03) item 2, which revised to the ladder requirements in section 4.9.2. The voluntary standard allows for vertical step-to-step spacing of up to 16 inches, rather than 12 inches, if the bed structures are used as ladders. The ballot item no longer allowed for this larger spacing, instead specifying no more than 12 inches for the vertical spacing of all ladder steps, except for the first step, which still could be up to 16 inches.

Mr. Toms began the meeting by summarizing the discussion of this topic during the most recent ASTM F15.30 Bunk Bed subcommittee meeting. During that meeting, members identified certain bunk bed types, such as bunkhouse beds, for which trying to reduce the spacing of the bed structure components to meet the 12-inch requirement would create larger spaces elsewhere in the structure that would fail entrapment tests using the wedge probe. Members also pointed out that these designs (with 16-inch spacing) have been on the market for a very long time and there are no known incidents specific to this issue.

After substantial discussion, which included debate over the safety implications of 12- versus 16-inch vertical step spacing, the task group concluded that section 4.9.2 should remain as it currently appears in the standard, but with an additional clarifying sentence at the end that points out that the side rails on a bunk bed can be used, or treated as, a step. Mr. Toms agreed to forward the proposed revision to the task group for review after the meeting.