

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ASTM F15.76 F3492-21 Child Safety Locks and Latches Subcommittee Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: Feb 25, 2022

LOCATION: Teleconference

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Kevin Lee

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 15, 2022

COMMISSION ATTENDEE(S): Kevin Lee, Stephen Harsanyi

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: See ASTM for a list of attendees

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Background:

ASTM F3492-21 *Safety Specification for Child Safety Locks and Latches for Use with Cabinet Doors and Drawers* defines “effective strength” as the “force required to disengage or break/damage any component” of the safety lock/latch. ASTM F3492-21 specifies a test method to measure the effective strength of a device by assembling the device to a wooden mounting block and attaching the mount to a tensile test machine to measure the force at which the device fails under a simulated condition.

The subcommittee chair shared a report titled “Study of Lab Variation in Effective Strength Measurement for Adhesive Locks and Latches” with the subcommittee. The study found that labs could measure up to a 14-pound variation in their test results when testing adhesive locks to the effective strength test in the voluntary standard. The report suggests specifying the type of wood used to mount the cabinet lock during the effective strength test. The study also indicated that an adhesive cabinet lock mounted to a non-painted, non-sanded, grade-A plywood, measured the lowest release force when tested to the standard’s effective strength test.

CPSC staff suggested specifying that the mounting block used in the effective strength test should not be painted or sanded to provide the most conservative conditions. The subcommittee agreed to use a non-painted wood block in the effective strength test and will discuss the specific hardwood species for consideration in future tests. Subcommittee members plan to conduct additional testing.

In addition, CPSC staff raised concerns regarding the following: terminology in the standard, cabinet/drawer gap measurement, and warning labels and instructional literature. CPSC staff agreed to provide the subcommittee chair with recommended considerations for revised warnings and instructions.

Next Steps:

The next meeting will be scheduled, and the subcommittee will discuss the effective strength test, test results, terminology, drawer gap measurements, warnings, and instructions.