

LOG OF MEETING DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of the ASTM F15.71 Liquid Laundry Packets

DATE OF MEETING: September 8, 2022

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual (teleconference)

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Jill Hurley (ESHF)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Jill Hurley (ESHF), Adrienne Layton (HSPP), Jacqueline Campbell (EXHR), and Joanna Matheson (HSTR)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Contact ASTM for a list of attendees.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The meeting was led by Ms. Nancy Cowles. After the meeting was called to order discussions moved to summary reports from the Dermal/Ocular and Seniors/Dementia task groups.

Dermal/ocular task group: Ms. Kristin Cordz summarized the Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety's recent report focusing on ingestion, dermal, and ocular exposures in children less than 6 years of age. Data was collected from the National Poison Data System spanning the years 2013 to 2020. The report analyzed single route exposures for ingestion, dermal, and ocular paths and multiple routes of exposure (e.g., simultaneous ingestion and ocular exposure). Ingestion exposures, through any or single routes of exposure, decreased over the study period. The annual population adjusted rates of ocular exposures increased however, the sales adjusted rates were stable.

Senior and dementia task group: Ms. Rachel Weintraub and Ms. Wendy Kennedy provided an update on phone contact with a member of Age Safe America and relayed that this representative will attend the next task group meeting to speak about the subject population. The task group is still working to learn more about hazards in the subject population and hazard mitigation strategies.

A representative from Health Canada (HC) presented a summary of relevant incidents pertaining to liquid laundry soaps and detergents in its recent [2021 annual surveillance report](#). The report indicated, for the year 2021, HC received approximately 100 reports a month from consumers and manufacturers/industry, except for the months of April and December having 250 and 400 incidents reported, respectively. Sixty-one reports involved liquid laundry detergent and 38 of these implicated laundry detergent packets. Only one incident occurred in Canada and that was an allergic reaction. Most reports came from outside of Canada as the Canada Consumer Safety Act requires industry to report incidents that occur if the product is also distributed in Canada. Most soap and detergent exposures were allergic reactions, irritations, or poisonings. When recorded, information on severity of injury was collected; 43% were severe, 27% moderate, 8% fatal, 7% life-threatening. Almost all of the routes of exposure to liquid laundry packets were by ingestion.

A representative from the American Cleaning Institute questioned the need to continue with annual reports from Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety. These yearly reports summarize ingestion exposures of children under 6 years of age. Some members still want to see the data and want dermal and ocular to be included in addition to other age groups. CPSC was asked if they will provide additional yearly reports. Staff responded that the Pre, Implementation, Post standard reports were provided, as well as 2018 and 2019. Staff is unaware of scheduled work in the 2023 Operating Plan. Some members mentioned other ASTM committees receive a yearly summary of incidents, however it was discussed that data had been requested by committee leads in those cases.

The meeting ended with a question; does the standard's preventative measures for children also reduce hazards to seniors? The senior task group lead responded that this is why this group is looking for contacts and resources. Interested members were invited to attend the next meeting that will include an Age Safe America representative. Meeting adjourned and will meet again in December 2022.