



## MEETING LOG

**SUBJECT:** ASTM F15.29 Subcommittee on Playground Equipment for Public Use

**FY 24 OP PLAN ENTRY:** Playground Equipment (Public)

**DATE OF MEETING:** 5/7/2024 – 5/8/2024

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** In-person, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown for ASTM Committee Week

**CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG:** Andy Newens (ESMC)

**FILING DATE:** 5/28/2024

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** In-person: Andy Newens (ESMC), Khalisa Phillips (ESHF)

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

### Summary of Meeting:

The ASTM F15.29 Public Playgrounds Subcommittee met to discuss potential updates to several voluntary standards for public playground equipment. Efforts were mostly focused on F1487-21, *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use*, and F2373-11(2017) *Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months through 23 Months*.

The subcommittee broke into several Task Groups (TGs) to address recently closed ballot items or near-term planned ballot items:

#### 1) Fully-enclosed towers and climbers:

Through the development of WK81117, members are trying to find ways to discourage users from climbing on the outside of fully enclosed towers and tube slides. The group reviewed recently balloted language (F15 (24-07)) and was addressing the negatives. Discussion focused on the need to address falls from higher playground surfaces to lower internal/external platforms or equipment. Members suggested the group look at related injury data, but it wasn't available during the meeting.

#### 2) Play mounds:

The TG met to continue developing performance requirements for play mounds (document WK84464). The proposed new language under ASTM F1487-21 was recently balloted (F15 (24-06) Item 007), and the members reviewed the results and addressed the negatives. Discussion focused on the proposed scope of the new language and whether it was extending beyond the limits of the current standard, that is, playground equipment use zones. The reason is that new types of play features in recent years are blending in more with their surroundings, making it challenging to distinguish between the intended play areas and natural or manmade landscaping. Concerns were also expressed about the difficulty of some of the requirements to be objectively interpreted by playground inspectors.

#### 3) F2373 working group - public play equipment for children 6 months through 23 months:

Staff met to review comments for F15 (24-06) ballot items 1-5 WK90148 for reauthorizing F2373. Over both days of the meeting, working group members reviewed all negatives received. The working group determined almost all proposed revisions require additional research and development, particularly regarding age



appropriateness before they can be re-balloted. The lead will put together a single ballot focused on reauthorizing the F2373-2011(2017) standard as is, except for updated language for labeling and warning consumers.

Under new business, CPSC staff brought to the attention of the F2373 working group a new type of indoor foldable climbers targeting infants and toddlers, often taking a triangle shape with modular elements such as sliding or climbing boards. While the bulk of the work will be addressed in F15.09 home playgrounds, the F2373 also intends to be involved due to these products initially being sold as indoor climbers for Montessori classrooms.

Lastly, members reconvened as a subcommittee to summarize task group recommendations and to share liaison reports to the subcommittee. CPSC staff reiterated plans to make public its proposed updates to the Handbook for Public Playground Safety by the end of FY24.

### **Next Steps:**

CPSC staff will continue to actively participate in public playground subcommittee meetings, along with TGs for play mounds, towers/climbers, and the F2373 toddler standard. The next F15.29 public playground subcommittee meetings will be held in conjunction with F15/F08 Committee Week in November 2024 in Orlando.