

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of the ASTM Ring Sling Task Group

DATE OF MEETING: 11 January 2021

PLACE OF MEETING: Virtual (teleconference)

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Hope Nesteruk (ESMC)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Hope Nesteruk (ESMC) & Max Sanborn (LSM)

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Contact ASTM for attendee list.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The task group chair explained that this is a new task group to investigate an issue raised by some manufacturers in response to some “unusual failure reports” from test labs performing testing to ASTM F2907.

The group discussed that some failures that are seen are valid failures, but others seem to be inconsistent (*e.g.*, 2 of 3 identical samples pass, one fails). Staff raised the issue of the stringency of the standard, and to make sure the group focuses on things that will not reduce the safety – not start passing samples that should fail. Some test labs have reportedly been tying a knot under the rings, but this may not be consistent with manufacturer’s instructions.

One member stated they had made some changes to the instructions to more strongly recommend spreading the fabric out over the shoulder. The same member stated he was working with the European groups to develop rounded caps for the straight arms of the test torso, which could help spread fabric out, and also reduce fabric tearing along the edge of the torso’s shoulders.

Group members brought up issues with the frequency (2Hz) and the travel distance (4.75 inches) test parameters of the occupant retention test. Staff presented information from a letter written by CPSC staff to the previous chair of this subcommittee in 2013 which addressed these points the last time they were brought up. At that time, staff referred to scientific literature that supported 2Hz as something that is consistent with human walking speeds. Staff read this portion of the letter. Staff forwarded this letter to the current subcommittee chair.

The subcommittee chair will reach out to manufacturers and labs to try to obtain more data for the task group to consider. The suggested shoulder end caps will be sent to test labs to try, although the task group acknowledged that COVID mitigation efforts at labs have greatly reduced test lab capacity.