



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: Meeting of the ASTM F15.79 Task Group on Beach Umbrellas

FY 24 OP PLAN ENTRY: Market Umbrellas/ Beach Umbrellas

DATE OF MEETING: June 26, 2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual/WebEx

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Andy Newens (ESMC)

FILING DATE: July 2, 2024

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Andy Newens (ESMC), Sharon White (ESHF)

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

Summary of Meeting:

The Beach Umbrellas (BU) Task Group (TG) was formed by the ASTM F15.79 Market Umbrellas Subcommittee to develop new safety standards and test methods for BUs installed in or on the sand. There are several incidents in which fly-away BUs have seriously injured beachgoers, including two deaths.

The new standard, ASTM F3681-24, *Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Beach Umbrellas and Anchor Devices*, was published on April 1, 2024. The specifications establish minimum requirements for safely anchoring all beach umbrellas to prevent them from detaching from the sand due to windy conditions.

The TG discussed a very recent incident that appeared in the news the previous day. A beachgoer was impaled in the leg by a fly-away rental beach umbrella. CPSC staff will request an investigation into the incident to receive more details.

Next, the TG continued a discussion from the previous meeting (June 12, 2024) on a proposed wording change to the warning label text to clarify the meaning of the precautionary statements. Because the wording change is more significant than an editorial change, the proposed change will have to be balloted. The consensus of all TG members in attendance was to proceed with balloting the proposed wording that was developed at the June 12th meeting.

Finally, the TG members discussed a proposal to address the potential hazard of pole separation through a performance requirement. Pole separation (i.e., failure of the connection point between the two parts of the main umbrella pole) is another way that beach umbrellas can become airborne but is not addressed in the current standard. The group agreed to continue working on this proposed change over the next several months.

Next Steps:

The next TG meeting has not yet been scheduled.