



## MEETING LOG

**SUBJECT:** ASTM F15.09 Home Playgrounds Subcommittee Meeting

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 05/06/2024

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** Virtual

**CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG:** Khalisa Phillips, Ph.D., ESHF

**FILING DATE:** 06/06/2024

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Khalisa Phillips, Ph.D., ESHF

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Contact ASTM for a list of non-CPSC attendees.

### Summary of Meeting:

The ASTM F15.09 Home Playgrounds Subcommittee (SC) met to discuss potential updates to F1148-21 *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Home Playground Equipment*. Members presented status updates on two work items being prepared for ballot. The Pictogram Task Group (TG) presented an updated pictogram (WK84584) to warn against strangulation hazards on home playgrounds. A member's modality analysis revealed top contributors to be equipment rope/chain (due to incomplete installation or poor maintenance of rope connections), retail rope (third-party), user modifications during play (ex, tying on jump ropes or leashes), and clothing hazards (sweatshirt drawstrings, helmet straps, lanyards, etc.). Members would like for the pictogram icons to match the strangulation incident data, and for hazards to be addressed as appropriate in the maintenance section of the standard. A member mentioned that thicker rope as sold in Europe is harder to form a loop or tie. The chain has been proposed as an alternative, but complaints are that it is not as soft as rope (with exception of plastic-coated chain).

The Chair shared feedback that children seem to understand that the above items are not allowed on playgrounds, yet they don't understand why they are not allowed. To address this concern, the group proposed a pictogram that better emphasizes the strangulation hazard such as prominently showing a victim with a rope wound around its neck. Members questioned how to highlight the importance of constant supervision, particularly when sightlines are obscured (such as with tube slides), and that victims may not be able to yell or make a noise when being strangled. The Subcommittee questioned what equipment should require a pictogram warning (any changes to 13.5 exemptions?). Members asked whether warnings can be ANSI-consistent such as printed in monochrome to meet Section 13, "all warnings SHALL conform to ANSI 535.4" or whether they are required to be printed in color.

The Chair mentioned ongoing work item WK85750 regarding parts inclusion, stating that a persuasive negative has been adopted and that ballot is pending. Members addressed task group reports other than work items. The one topic members keep returning to are non-hazardous protrusions, in other words components of home playgrounds that are technically being called out as protrusions but are not thought to be hazardous (ex, flexible flowers, doorknobs on playhouses) due to design, geometry, soft material/ability to flex or move, or location. Members discussed ways to address the problem, such as modifying the definition of protrusion, but



decided it would be better to address as an exclusion under performance requirements in Section 6.3.6.2. Plan is to create and ballot work item for non-hazardous protrusion by November, referencing ASTM F963-21 A4 bath toy projections.

Under liaison reports, CPSC staff announced that in line with the FY2024 Operating Plan, updates to the 2010 CPSC *Public Playground Safety Handbook* are underway, and staff expects to release a draft revised version by the end of the year. Under old business, members brought up ongoing concerns about the standard having inaccurate metric conversion tolerances (e.g., 5N but should be 0.5N). Members will attempt to identify all values that need correcting by the next meeting. Next, members proposed raising the upper age limit for F1148 from 10 to 12 years. This would bring the upper age into alignment with F1487 public playgrounds. Members expressed concerns that Table 3 Structural Integrity Weight Limits may need to be revised based on anthropometric data for 11- and 12-year-old children; CPSC staff offered to investigate whether updated anthropometric data is available for Subcommittee review. Finally, the Chair asked whether the group wants to address long bone fractures associated with fireman's sliding poles. This topic remained tabled. During new business, the Subcommittee discussed the need to revise maintenance instructions under Section 12.1.1.4 to better alert users to potential strangulation hazards associated with not maintaining ropes on swings, climbing walls, and flexible climbing nets. Members stated that F1487 has a TG working on a recreational installers guide and is something similar needed for home playgrounds. Members agreed that a more limited installation and maintenance guide would be sufficient for home playgrounds.

Under new business, CPSC staff shared they have noted reports of head entrapment and other hazards on SaferProducts.gov associated with indoor triangle climbers. ASTM staff proposed a task group to address this new product category and suggested addressing these products under the toddler standard F2373 TG within F15.29 public playgrounds given they were first introduced in Montessori classrooms. F15.29 may be better suited to address this topic given F2373 already addresses hazards for children less than 2 years of age, but scope is an issue given they are mostly used in residential settings.

#### **Next Steps:**

A member will consider pictogram suggestions for visually depicting the strangulation hazard associated with home playgrounds. The next Pictogram TG will be on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. ASTM will be arranging an exploratory call to discuss hazards associated with indoor triangle climbers with interested parties.