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## The Role of Voluntary Standards in Consumer Protection and Risk-Based Standards Development

Standards Alliance West Africa Risk-Based Consumer Protection Series  
June 25-29, 2018  
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[www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

## Touching Every Part of Everyday Life



### Introduction

- 12,700+ ASTM standards operate globally across borders, disciplines, and industries
- Harnessing the expertise of over 34,000 members worldwide
  - Relying on our members' expertise and commitment – their good science, good engineering and good judgment
  - Recognizing expertise not geography – members from 150 nations
- Standards for manufacturing and materials, products and processes, systems and services
- Standards are used voluntarily and cited in Regulation or contract
- Our standards help: consumers, businesses, manufacturers, innovators and governments



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## Universal Equality of Opportunity



### Operating Globally

- ASTM is one of the world's largest Standards Developing Organizations, with global reach and influence
- Embracing all the principles of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
- Working across political, cultural and geographic borders
- Trusted for market relevance and technical quality
- The choice for many global industries
  - 47% outside USA
- Our global outreach activities increase understanding
- Over 7,700 ASTM International standards are used as the basis for national standards or reference in regulation in 75 countries



# 110

memorandums  
of understanding

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- ASTM is one of the world's largest SDOs, but it's the scale of our involvement and influence that counts for more.
- Complies with the six WTO principles for international standards development: transparency, openness, consensus, relevance, coherence, development dimension
- We work across political, cultural and geographic borders – recognizing expertise, not country of origin. This promotes a massive range of activity and a phenomenal exchange of knowledge.
- Trusted and known for market relevance and technical quality, our standards are the choice for many global industries – 49% outside the USA.
- We also believe in the power of standards to inspire and enable people and economies.
- Our global outreach activities increase understanding about standards and their application.
- And our Memorandum of Understanding Program provides tangible encouragement to developing economies.

## ASTM Memorandums of Understanding



ASIA	EUROPE	CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	CARIBBEAN	MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA	EASTERN, WESTERN & CENTRAL AFRICA	SOUTHERN AFRICA
BANGLADESH	ALBANIA	BOLIVIA	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	AFGHANISTAN	ARSO	ANGOLA
BHUTAN	ARMENIA	CHILE	BAHAMAS	BAHRAIN	BURUNDI	BOTSWANA
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	AZERBAIJAN	COLOMBIA	BARBADOS	EGYPT	CAMEROON	MALAWI
CAMBODIA	DOSHA	COSTA RICA	DICUZE	GSO	COTE D'IVOIRE	MAURITIUS
CHINA	BULGARIA	ECUADOR	CROSQ	IRAQ	DEM REP CONGO	NAMIBIA
INDONESIA	CROATIA	EL SALVADOR	DOMINICA	ISRAEL	ETHIOPIA	SEYCHELLES
KOREA	EASC	GUATEMALA	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	JORDAN	GAMBIA	SADC
LAO	GEORGIA	HONDURAS	GRENADA	KUWAIT	GHANA	SOUTH AFRICA
MALAYSIA	KAZAKHSTAN	NICARAGUA	GUYANA	MOROCCO	KENYA	SWAZILAND
MONGOLIA	KOSOVO	PANAMA	HAITI	OMAN	MOZAMBIQUE	ZAMBIA
MYANMAR	MOLDOVA	PARAGUAY	JAMAICA	PALESTINE	NIGERIA	ZIMBABWE
NEPAL	MONTENEGRO	PERU	MONTERRAT	QATAR	RWANDA	
PAKISTAN	ROMANIA*	URUGUAY	ST. KITTS-NEVIS	SAUDI ARABIA	SIERRA LEONE	
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	RUSSIA		ST. LUCIA	TUNISIA	BENEGAL	
PHILIPPINES	SERBIA		ST. VINCENT - GRENADINES	TURKEY	TANZANIA	
SINGAPORE	UKRAINE		SURINAME	U.A.E	UGANDA	
SRI LANKA			TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	YEMEN		
TAIWAN						
THAILAND						
VIETNAM						

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## ASTM Process



### Equal Voice, Equal Vote

- Openness
- Consensus based
- Balance between Producers and Users/General Interest
- One official vote per “voting Interest”
- But all members can vote
- All negatives are addressed



Technical Committees are balanced.

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Further distinguishing the ASTM standards development process is its fair and balanced voting process. Simply stated, at ASTM International, all members have an equal vote and equal voice in the development of technical standards. Fairness is further ensured through balanced participation among producers, users and general interest members of an ASTM standards writing committee.

Openness, transparency and a balanced, consensus process are the hallmarks of the ASTM system and have contributed to the quality, integrity and worldwide acceptance of ASTM standards for over 110 years.

## Technical Committee Organization



- Technical Committees form to address specific industry needs
- Subcommittees are established to address subsets of specialized subject matter
- Subcommittees organize their expertise into Task Groups to write standards



## ASTM Balloting Process



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Member participation from around the world is what makes ASTM a truly international standards development organization. ASTM opens its doors to all interested individuals and organizations from around the globe that want to participate in the Society's consensus process for standards development. This process ensures that all interested parties have an equal vote in determining a standard's content. ASTM's enduring philosophy of consensus without borders helps make ASTM responsive and relevant to the needs of the global marketplace. As a result, more than 40 percent of ASTM's standards are sold outside the United States.

## Strengths of ASTM's Standards Development System

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### Global Solutions to Common Problems

- ASTM membership is open to direct participation globally
- Over 7,700 ASTM standards are referenced or adopted in over 75 countries

### Known for Technical Quality and Market Relevance

- ASTM process keeps the science in, and politics out

### Solve Problems Expert to Expert

- Collaborate in an open, transparent and inclusive process



## ASTM International - Wide Range of Consumer Related Activities

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- D01 Paint
- D10 Packaging
- D11 Rubber
- D12 Soaps
- D13 Textiles
- F08 Sports Equipment
- F09 Tires
- F04 Medical Devices
- F11 Vacuum Cleaners
- F14 Fences
- F15 Consumer Products
- F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices
- F27 Snow Skiing

## ASTM International Committee F15

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- Consumer Product Safety Standards
- Founded in 1972 at the request of US Consumer Product Safety Commission
- 1000 members
- 100 standards
- 60 subcommittees

## Keeping everyday products safe



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
**A SAFER GENERATION OF CRIBS**  
New Federal Requirements



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## F15 Subcommittees

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- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 02 Lighters          | 21 Carriers/Swings          |
| 03 Bathtubs          | 22 Toys                     |
| 06 Air Rifles        | 24 Children's Jewelry       |
| 09 Home Playground   | 28 Pool Covers              |
| 10 Flammable Liquids | 29 Public Playground Equip. |
| 11 Bed Rails         | 30 Bunk Beds                |
| 16 High Chairs       | 31 Plastic Containers       |
| 17 Strollers         | 32 Innersprings             |
| 18 Cribs             | 33 Plastic Furniture        |
| 19 Infant Bedding    | 36 Soft Contained Play      |
| 20 Bath Seats        | 37 Drawstrings              |

## More F15 Subcommittees



38 Window Guards	55 Firearm Security Containers
39 Beanbag Chairs	56 Shopping Carts
41 Fun Karts	57 Commercial Cribs
42 Furniture Tip-Over	58 Powered Scooters and Pocket Bikes
43 Soccer Goals	59 Children's Folding Chairs
44 Play – Under Two	60 Portable Pools
45 Candle Products	61 Constant Air Play Equipment for Residential Use
46 Fire Suppression Towels	63 Inflatable Air Mattresses
47 Fire Ladders	66 Crib Mattresses
49 Pool Safety	70 Adult Safety Products
50 Comm. Changing Tables	71 Laundry Packets
51 Safety Vacuum Release Systems	
52 Scooters	
53 Firearm Locking Devices	

## F15 Mission

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- Development of voluntary consensus standards
- Risk assessment standards (versus hazard assessment)
- Performance focused (versus design specific)

## How ASTM Committee F15 Works



- Participants include consumer advocates, government agency representatives, consultants, manufacturers, lawyers, educators and testing laboratories.
  - If not for the standard-setting process, these diverse interest groups rarely meet outside of a courtroom or legal proceeding.
- Standards meetings are informative and candid. Attendees share their experiences and knowledge to create better standards and, ultimately, better products.
- Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) incident data – including the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) data – helps to drive the process.
  - Data provided to each of the relevant ASTM subcommittees on patterns of injuries involving specific products.
  - These patterns of injuries assist the subcommittees in determining what direction to take in the development of a new standard, or a revision to a current standard.

## Lots of ABC's to get to a 'Safe Product'

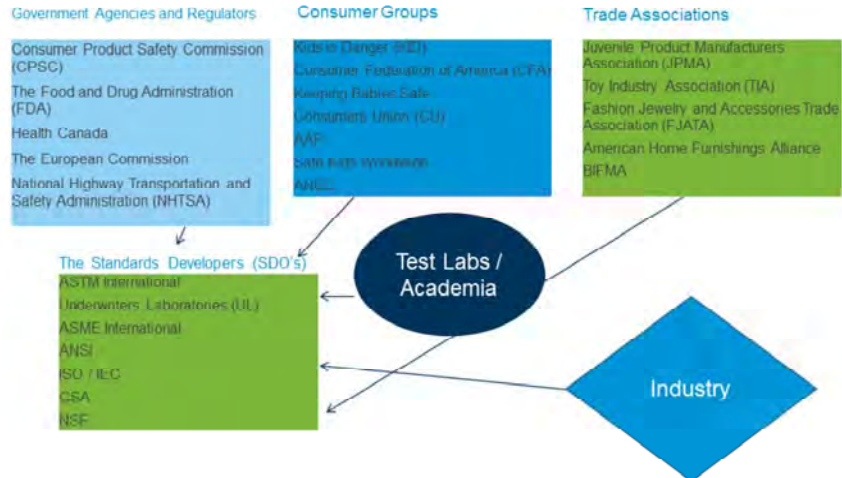


- The product safety landscape is complex
- There are many actors, each with unique and changing roles
- Key considerations
  - Type of product
  - Intended market
  - Hazards





## The Actors...



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## Important. Every Day.



### Why Voluntary Standards?

- Ensures safety, quality and reliability
- Constantly responding to new challenges, new technology and new markets
- Built on principle of voluntary consensus; giving everyone an opportunity to participate
- Effective and relevant across diverse markets
- Helping everyone: consumers, businesses, manufacturers, innovators and governments
- Incorporated into contracts, regulations, codes, and laws around the world; they support established and emerging economies and free and fair global trade.



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- Building on the work of our founders in the early rail industry – ASTM's standards ensure safety, quality and reliability.
- But progress never stops. We're constantly responding to new challenges, new technology and new markets – by developing new standards and enhancing established ones.
- We base our rigorous development process on voluntary consensus. This gives everyone an opportunity to participate in creating and defining a standard.
- It also ensures that our standards are effective and relevant across the diverse markets we serve.
- Our standards help everyone: consumers, businesses, manufacturers, innovators and governments.
- They underpin contracts, laws and regulations. They support established and emerging economies – and ultimately – free and fair global trade.

## Standardization & Its Role in Consumer Protection

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- Consumer product safety standards are the most effective method to improve product safety and reduce injuries.
- Improved safety standards affect all products in a given category, not just those made by one manufacturer.
- Standards have a greater impact than recalls since eliminating the unsafe product before it is produced is most effective in improving product safety.
- Good regulations are developed in a transparent manner, with input from all affected stakeholders.
- US Congress recognizes this extraordinary effectiveness and requires that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) rely on voluntary/consensus standards.

## CPSC Mission



Ensure that Consumer Products are Free of Unreasonable Safety Hazards by:

- Facilitating the development of effective voluntary standards
- Issuing and enforcing mandatory standards or banning products if no feasible standard is possible
- Initiate recalls or corrective action of products that pose potential risk for serious injury or death
- Conduct research on potential hazards
- Inform and educate consumers
- Encourage industry to implement best practices to ensure safe products



## Outside of Regulation



### Public/Private Partnership

- CPSC staff provided technical support or was otherwise engaged in the development of voluntary safety standards for 70 different products
- Participate in numerous ASTM committees
- Provide incident data and contribute to technical solutions
- Annual report of standards activities available at <http://www.cpsc.gov/Global/Newsroom/EOLIA/CommissionBriefingPackages/2016/VoluntaryStandardsActivitiesFY2016MidyearReport-May232016.pdf>



## WTO Good Regulatory Practices

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- Regulatory efforts must focus on outcomes (i.e., the protection regulations provide, not on the specific requirements or process), and should not be more restrictive than necessary to achieve the desired result
- Good regulations are developed in a transparent manner, with input from all affected stakeholders
- Regulatory actions should, wherever possible, be based on solid scientific data, and should be risk-based
- Standards should meet societal and market needs and should not act as barriers to trade, even if this is unintentional

## WTO Good Regulatory Practices (cont'd)

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- Existing international standards should be considered and evaluated for their ability to achieve desired regulatory outcomes before other approaches are considered
- Costs of regulation to business and consumers must be weighed against the benefits achieved
- Benefits (consumer protection and other benefits, facilitation of trade, openness of markets) of alignment with existing standards either globally or regionally must be weighed against the perceived incremental benefits of adopting a differing standard

## Everyone Plays an Important Role





## The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA)



- Passed in response to high-profile product recalls in 2007 & 2008
  - Lead paint in children's toys
  - Powerful magnets falling out of toys
  - Dangerous cribs and infant sleep environments
- Major Provisions:
  - Create a publically searchable Web-based database of reports of injury, illness or death (or risk of)
  - Mandated that CPSC issue mandatory standards for durable infant nursery products
  - Set new, stringent limits on lead in the paint of consumer products and on the substrate of children's products
  - Required third-party testing and certification on certain children's products
  - Authorized more direct engagement with foreign partners
  - Prohibits the sale of recalled products
  - Requires Tracking Labels on Children's Products
  - Significantly increases civil penalties and enhanced criminal penalty provisions

## Section 106 of CPSIA - Toy Safety Standards



Section 106 - "...the provisions of ASTM International Standard F963-07 Consumer Safety Specifications for Toy Safety (ASTM F963), as it exists on the date of enactment of this Act...

### One Hundred Tenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Thursday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and eight*

### An Act

*To establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements  
for children's products and to authorize and modernize the Consumer Product  
Safety Commission.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Consumer  
Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act  
is as follows:



## ASTM F963 Facts



- Against a backdrop of minimal US federal regulation of toy safety, the US toy industry created the first comprehensive voluntary safety standard in the 1970s.
- The successor to this standard is ASTM F963, published by ASTM International and administered as a consensus standard
- ASTM F963 is frequently revised to address emerging hazards; *A major strength of the ASTM process is the ability to respond quickly to incident data indicating a possible emergent hazard*
- ASTM F963 has historically led the way on addressing hazards, subsequently sharing this information with CEN and ISO-examples where this has occurred are magnets, hemispherical shape impaction hazards, jaw entrapment, and cup-shaped toys



US CPSC Chairman awarded the ASTM F15.22 the prestigious Safety Commendation in 2013

## Requirements of ASTM F963 -- SCOPE



ASTM F963 details comprehensive requirements in the following areas:

- Mechanical/Physical/Material Quality
- Electrical
- Flammability
- Toxicology
- Microbiological cleanliness/preservative effectiveness
- Labeling

## Strengths of ASTM F963 Toy Safety Standard



- Scope and breadth – covers toys intended for children up to 14 years of age and over 100 toy safety tests and preventable hazards
- Open process, balanced committee
- Has led the way on addressing hazards -- \*a major strength of the ASTM process is the ability to respond quickly to incident data to address possible emergent hazard
- Performance-focused (versus design-specific)
- Requirements based on risk assessment (versus perceived hazard)

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**\*\*The ASTM Toy Safety Standard -- adopted and emulated by other countries and regions of the World.**

### Some of the Strengths :

1. **Its Scope and Breadth** – toys intended for children up to 14 years of age and over 100 toy safety tests and preventable hazards including requirements for --- small parts and sharp edges ---- other ingestion and impaction hazards ---- material content, cleanliness and quality ---- flammability, projectiles, and others
2. **Its Open** process, and **balanced** committee, which contribute to the resources of input, transparency and credibility – of the standard.
3. **Historically, the ASTM standard has led the way on addressing emerging hazards -- \*A major strength of the ASTM process is the ability to respond quickly to incident data to address possible emergent hazards**
  - \* **AND THEN SHARES this info** with its counterparts, such as in other standards bodies – such as CEN and ISO (European ISO standards)
  - \*\*\* **THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE INDUSTRY'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUALLY REVIEW AND REVISE STANDARDS TO KEEP PACE WITH INNOVATION IN TOYS – AND TO ALIGN STANDARDS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.**
  - \* ***Some recent examples of emerging issues identified and addressed within ASTM – magnets in toys, hemispherical and spherical-shaped impaction hazards, jaw entrapment, cup-shaped toys, etc.)***
4. **US CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THE EFFICACY OF ASTM F963 by making it a mandatory US federal standard as part of Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008**

## Risk Management Strategy – Risk Tolerance



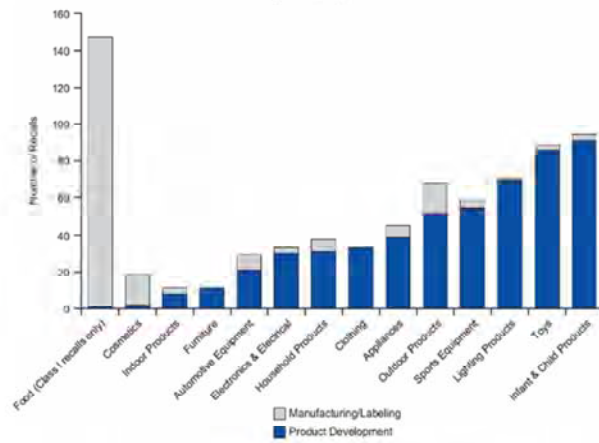
		Severity				
		Catastrophic	Critical	Moderate	Slight	Minimal
Probability	Improbable					
	Remote					
	Occasional					
	Frequent					

- Design Out the Potential Hazard
- Protect or Safeguard Against the Hazard
- Provide Effective Warnings or Instructions
- Accept the Risk Based on an Educated and Informed Fact-Based Decision

## Root Cause of Product Recalls



Figure 4: Number and Root Cause of Product Safety Recalls Across Consumer Products Categories (1999-2001)



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Source: PRTM White Paper, © PRTM 2002

## Design Failure Modes Effect Analysis

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A DFMEA process follows these steps:

- Review the product in detail to understand functions
- Brainstorm potential foreseeable uses and failure modes
- List potential effects or hazards of each use and failure mode
- Classify severity, probability of occurrence and probability of detection of each hazard and failure mode
- Determine design solutions or manufacturing control points based on identified failure modes
- Make risk decision based on findings and business needs

There are several tools recommended to conduct this analysis that also make up the Risk Assessment Process



## Risk Assessment Process

### Data Analysis



There are a variety of sources available to obtain data:

- U.S. CPSC Recall Database
- EU RAPEX Recall Database
- U.S. CPSC NEISS Injury Database
- U.S. CPSC Death Certificates
- Consumer Complaint Database
- Consumer Studies

## Risk Assessment Process

### Hazard Identification and Analysis



There are key steps to perform an effective hazard analysis

- Research any regulatory or industry standards associated with product or products with similar characteristics to understand the known hazards (also understand deficiencies in standards)
- Research the anatomy associated with the hazard (which body parts are affected and what is unique with the body part)
- Understand the mechanism of the hazard (how does it occur)
- Study injuries associated with the hazard to better understand mechanisms, consumer behaviors that led to injury and potential severity
- Determine the general and specific product characteristics that contribute to the above variables

## Keeping Pace With Change



### Cooperation helps with challenges

- Global Harmonization
- Territoriality
- Regulatory Conflicts / Reciprocity
- Duplication of Effort / Few Resources
- Marketplace Confusion
- Emerging Hazards



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- It's vital that ASTM stay relevant and fully aligned to user needs. All standards are reviewed every 5 years, but, in fast-moving sectors, it's more frequent than that.
- We also work hard to constantly improve our own working methods.
- Our standards development process is flexible, transparent and built on consensus.
- It's backed by powerful tools and technologies that enhance global connectivity.
- These systems give members the freedom to be in instant contact, to share thinking and to review and develop standards more quickly.
- This reinforces our reputation for timely as well as relevant standards.



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Thank you.

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