

**ASTM Subcommittee F08.16 for Archery Products**  
**Avalon Hotel - Room 205, Erie, PA**  
**Friday – June 16, 2006**

**Attending:** Darik Bolig, Bear Archery; Jeff DeRegnaucourt, Burr & Company; Jason Fogg, Hoyt; Ken Giles, Easton; David Gordon, Gordon Composites; Mike Karen, U.S. CPSC; Tom Saunders, Saunders Archery Co. Plant 3; Ben Summers, TruBall; Randy Walk, Hoyt and John Woller, Summit Treestands

- 1) ASTM Chairman Dave Gordon called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM with 10 members or visitors in attendance.
- 2) The chairman read the minutes of the last meeting held at Atlanta, GA on January 4, 2006 and they were unanimously approved following a motion and second to approve.
- 3) Review the status of ASTM Standards
  - A. F1 752-01 This standard submitted to ballot for 5 year review with no revisions. Approved.  
(Standard Test Method for Archery Bow Component – Cord Material)
  - B. F 1753-01 This Standard submitted to ballot for 5 year review with no revisions. Approved.  
(Standard Specification for Classification and Marking of Single-Lens Scopes for Archery Bows).
  - C. F2120-01 in ballot for revisions that correlate to F2531-05. Approved.  
(Standard Practice for Testing Treestand Load Capacity).
  - D. F2126-01 in ballot for revisions that correlate to F2531-05. Approved.  
(Standard Test Method for Treestand Static Load Capacity).
  - E. F2127 -01 in ballot to withdraw this Standard. Adherence requirements combined and approved with revisions to F2125-05.  
(Standard Test Method for Treestand Adherence).
  - F. F1832-02 during 2007 will be due for 5 year review.  
(Standard Test Method for Determining the Force-Draw Let-Down Curve of Archery Bows.
  - G. F1352-02 during 2007 will be due for 5 year review.  
(Standard Guide for Fixed Blade Broadhead Performance and Safety Standards).

- H. F1363-02 during 2007 will be due for 5 year review.  
(Standard Guide for Reduction of Risk of Injury for Archery Overdraws).
- I. F1436-02 during 2007 will be due for 5 year review.  
(Standard Guide for Center Serving Diameter Dimensions for Archery Bow Strings).

4) Review of Incident Reports from CPSC based on Task Group Study of Statistics (Jeff DeRegnancourt, Chairman, Wade Nolan, Marilyn Bentz, John Woller and L. J. Smith).

The task group chairman (Jeff DeRegnancourt) handed out a copy of the following summary report compiled from each task group member's individual reports:

*"Over the past several months each member of the task force received and reviewed the 143 reports supplied by the CPSC. Each gave their own views and the reports and their contents. It is interesting that all approached the project in different ways, however, there were common themes found in all responses.*

1. *Most reports lacked adequate information from which to form an intelligent conclusion. Most states, if not all, have no uniform Treestand Hunter Casualty report form nor is it mandatory that one be completed in the event of serious injury or death from a treestand accident like it is with accidental firearms shootings.*
2. *An overwhelming number of accidents appear to have resulted from lack of use of full body harness.*
3. *An overwhelming number of accidents appear to have been incurred by adults between 21 and 80.*

**Conclusion:**

*Since 1995, the Treestand Manufacturers Association through establishment of standards, testing and education in cooperation with the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, has made tremendous strides in safety of product as well as formal education of hunters/consumers through instructions, video/DVD, Public Service Announcements on television and in print. There have also been numerous articles written on treestand safety by many outdoor writers. Many treestand safety seminars have been held at consumer trade shows and outdoor writers camps as well as the CPSC in Washington, DC. The National Bowhunter Education Foundation and the International Hunter Education Association have incorporated treestand safety curriculum in their classes which are taught to our nation's youth.*

**Recommendations:**

1. *Require that all states adopt the IHEA Elevated Hunting Incident Reporting Form or risk losing Federal Pitman-Robinson Funds.*
2. *Make use of full body harnesses mandatory nationally or risk losing Federal Pitman-Robinson Funds.*

3. *Publicize the TMA Treestand Safety Guidelines.*
4. *Emphasize the importance of using products certified to TMA standards.*
5. *Outlaw homemade treestands on all public property.*
6. *Due to the age group which seems to be having all the accidents and due to the fact that when they went through Hunters's Education (if ever) we strongly believe that a major effort be made to educate those in this age group in treestand safety protocol including the use of certified stands and full body harnesses.*

*While the information in the reports which we received was mostly incomplete, we are confident that if our recommendations were implemented, we would realize a significant reduction in what appears to be mostly avoidable accidents involving serious injury or death."*

John Woller presented additional independent observations from the incident reports as follows:

1. Many of the "incident reports" were simply copies of newspaper clippings or e-mails from attorneys.
2. It took task group members an average of three days each to cipher through the 143 reports and there were 107 cases which had significant information.
3. The data revealed that the number of treestand accidents per year is drastically less than the 6,000 reported in a petition to the CPSC. Some of the larger hunting states that keep records had between 30 and 40.
4. The average age of accident victims was 44.
5. Falls from treestands occurred at an average height of 21 feet.
6. A conclusion that reading and understanding treestand/harness instructions would have prevented numerous accidents.
7. The continued publicizing of the dangers and solutions to suspension trauma should reduce related deaths.
8. Full body harness use is the single most important safety item to prevent treestand injuries.
9. Hunter training and education in treestand use must have high priority.

Discussions with, and questions asked by the CPSC representative led to the mutual agreement that treestand manufacturers are considerably ahead of the consumer with respect to treestand safety and that perhaps other industries warrant closer observation too. Through the TMA the treestand manufacturers will continue to assure that improvements and innovations in treestand safety are made regardless of outside observations.

- 5) Review of possible revisions to F1544-04 to update and correlate with ATA Technical Committee's new Guidelines on "Specifications for Determining the Rating Velocities of an Archery Bow". Since only 2 bow manufacturer's were present this agenda item will be reviewed at our next scheduled meeting.
- 6) New Business: No new business.

7) Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dave Gordon, Chairman F08.16 Subcommittee on Archery Products, and John Woller.

Bob Deston was out of country and unable to take minutes of this meeting. John Woller took minutes for the record.