

RWF Task Group on Safety Surfacing

Teleconference Meeting Summary **DRAFT**

May 3, 2021

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Participating members:

Life Floor	Keller, Jonathan
Bartley Water Associates LLC	Bartley, Clayton
NSF International	Choe, Sung
Pentair Water Group/Wellmate	Gregory, Kenneth
Town of Flower Mound	Vyles, Tom

Participating observers:

SEA, Ltd.	Amenson, PhD, MPH, Tara
NSF International	Baragar, Greta
National Recreation and Park Association	Boland, Julie
National Recreation and Park Association	Gonzales, Elizabeth
LifeFloor	Howell, Brian
Canadian Playground Advisory Inc.	Huber, Rolf
Vortex Aquatic Structures International	Laurin, Marc-Andre
HNP Landscape Architecture	Norton, Ed
Waterplay Solutions	Scott, Dennis
Walkway Management Group	Vassallo, Timothy

Discussion

J. Keller welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. J. Snider took roll and read the anti-trust statement. Five of the 12 voting members were present (42%) which did not represent a quorum.

J. Keller began by providing a quick recap of how the existing language was developed, using concrete as a baseline with the goal of improving on concrete. He noted that there had been confusion about if the safety surfacing was required, and that after the previous call, an issue paper had been drafted to add clarity that the surfacing was not required, but rather that the standard provides methodology to test safety surfacing when it is used. The group reviewed the proposed language in the issue paper:

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26 Interactive waterplay venue surfacing systems

26.1 Scope

The purpose of this section is to specify the evaluation and testing criteria of surfacing systems, when they are in use in Recreational Water Facilities. These evaluation and testing requirements will enable the appropriate assessment of a safety surfacing system for interactive waterplay venues. These evaluation and testing requirements pertain only to the surface on grade / ground level.

26.2 General product requirement

Safety surfacing systems shall comply with all the requirements of this section.

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R. Huber stated that there was a need to define the word safety if the surfacing was to be labeled as safety surfacing and said that the problem was more of a maintenance problem than a product problem. T. Vyles suggested that R. Huber submit an issue paper on those topics. R. Huber asked if the scope should include language indicating that concrete was an acceptable surface. J. Keller responded that he felt that was not the goal of the standard. B. Vincent noted that codes in the US typically recommend concrete for use, and reiterated the difference between a requirement in a code and a requirement in

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the standard. J. Boland added that many states reference Standard 50 in code, and cautioned against ruling out facilities that utilize concrete, and suggested that the term “safety surfacing” implies that other surfaces such as concrete are not safe. J. Keller noted that the safety surfacing term was similar to other systems in the standard: systems that disinfect are called disinfection systems, for example, and these surfacing systems are meant to increase safety. T. Vyles reiterated that code dictates what is an acceptable surface. R. Huber suggested the existing requirements would not prevent serious injury. J. Keller said that the intent was to reduce the number of injuries compared to concrete, and that eliminating all injuries was not possible.

The group moved on to discuss the RWF-2020-6 – EN-1177 issue paper. J. Keller explained that when the safety surfacing language was drafted, the 2008 version of EN-1177 was used as a reference. Since then, the [2018 version](#) had been published, which includes G-max and thus is very similar to the [ASTM F1292](#) standard. The issue paper proposed updating to the 2018 version of the standard, and potentially including ASTM F1292 as an optional test. T. Vassallo noted that the slip resistance of brushed concrete was difficult to compete with. J. Keller responded that this was true, but there could be wide variation in what brushed concrete was in the field. R. Huber stated that other standards deal with impact attenuation from an elevated height, while this standard focused on standing height. He added concern that this standard would require impact attenuation around all swimming pools. J. Keller responded that the section specifically applies to Interactive Water Features. J. Boland expressed concerns that the standard implies that concrete surfacing is not safe. T. Vyles responded that the code would be the guide for what is acceptable to use. B. Vincent agreed with this, and added that the standard exists for products to test against.

R. Huber provided draft language for a potential rewording of the scope language discussed earlier on the call.

26 Interactive waterplay venue surfacing systems

26.1 Scope

The purpose of this section is to specify the evaluation and testing criteria of surfacing systems **other than concrete or asphalt, when used in Recreational Water Facilities**. These evaluation and testing requirements will enable the appropriate assessment of a **safety** surfacing system for interactive waterplay venues. These evaluation and testing requirements pertain only to the surface on grade / ground level.

26.2 General product requirement

Safety surfacing systems shall comply with all the requirements of this section.

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J. Keller suggested the proposed language be sent to straw ballot, and address the potential replacement of the term safety in a separate issue paper and straw ballot.

Action items

J. Snider to prepare and send out straw ballot for revised scope language.

Issue paper to propose use of term other than safety surfacing to be drafted.

Next teleconference: August 3, 2021.