

§ 1031.8

(12) Taking other actions that the Commission believes appropriate in a particular situation.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 1031.8 Voluntary Standards Coordinator.

(a) The Executive Director shall appoint a Voluntary Standards Coordinator to coordinate agency participation in voluntary standards bodies so that:

(1) The most effective use is made of agency personnel and resources, and

(2) The views expressed by such personnel are in the public interest and, at a minimum, do not conflict with the interests and established views of the agency.

(b) The Voluntary Standards Coordinator is responsible for managing the Commission's voluntary standards program, as well as preparing and submitting to the Commission a semiannual summary of its voluntary standards activities. The summary shall set forth, among other things, the goals of each voluntary standard under development, the extent of CPSC activity (monitoring or participation; the current status of standards development and implementation) and, if any, recommendations for additional Commission action. The Voluntary Standards Coordinator shall also compile information on the Commission's voluntary standards activities for the Commission's annual report.

Subpart B—Employee Involvement

§ 1031.9 Purpose and scope.

(a) This subpart sets forth the Consumer Product Safety Commission's criteria and requirements governing membership and involvement by Commission officials and employees in the activities of voluntary standards development bodies.

(b) The Commission realizes there are advantages and benefits afforded by greater involvement of Commission personnel in the standards activities of domestic and international voluntary standards organizations. However, such involvement might present an appearance or possibility of the Commission giving preferential treatment to an or-

16 CFR Ch. II (1–1–04 Edition)

ganization or group or of the Commission losing its independence or impartiality. Also, such participation may present real or apparent conflict of interest situations.

(c) The purpose of this subpart is to further the objectives and programs of the Commission and to do so in a manner that ensures that such membership and participation:

(1) Is consistent with the intent of the Consumer Product Safety Act and the other acts administered by the Commission, as well as with federal policy as set forth in the current version of OMB Circular No. A-119, Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Standards;

(2) Is not contrary to the public interest;

(3) Presents no real or apparent conflict of interest, and does not result in or create the appearance of the Commission giving preferential treatment to an organization or group or the Commission compromising its independence or impartiality; and

(4) Takes into account Commission resources and priorities.

(d) In general, Commission employees must obtain approval from their supervisor and appropriate agency management to be involved in voluntary standards activities. They should also strive to apprise the Voluntary Standards Coordinator, where practicable, as to their involvement in voluntary standards activities.

(e) All Commission employees involved in voluntary standards activities are subject to any restrictions for avoiding conflicts of interest and for avoiding situations that would present an appearance of bias.

§ 1031.10 Definitions.

For purposes of describing the level of involvement in voluntary standards activities for which Commission employees may be authorized, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Membership*. Membership is the status of an employee who joins a voluntary standards development or advisory organization or subgroup and is listed as a member. It includes all oral and written communications which are incidental to such membership.