

**U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING**

CPSA 8 (b)(1) Cleared
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Products Identified _____
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SUBJECT: Portable Electric Air Heaters

DATE OF MEETING: July 26, 2001

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Mai Ngo, ESEE

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: July 30, 2001

LOCATION: CPSC Laboratories, Gaithersburg, MD

**CPSC ATTENDEEE(S): Mai Ngo, ES
Hugh McLaurin, ES
Linda Edwards, ES
Randy Butturini, ES
Dean LaRue, ES
Andy Stadnik, LS
Robert Garrett, LS**

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Wayne Morris, AHAM
Robert Wozniak, UL, Melville, NY
Bob Dellavalle, UL, Melville, NY**

7/31/01 10:53 AM
CPSC LABORATORIES
GAITHERSBURG, MD

The meeting was requested by AHAM to discuss staff testing of portable electric air heaters. The discussion covered the incident reports, test objectives, test setup and measurements, and conclusions that formed the basis for the CPSC letter dated March 12, 2001 to UL.

Ms. Ngo commenced with a brief background of the project, which was conducted as a follow-up to an earlier project in the late 80s. The test objectives included a small-scale market survey of available heaters produced/listed according to the revised UL standard 1278 effective in 1991, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the 1991 revisions. The test procedures were observed via a video tape recording showing examples of six abnormal test scenarios on four sample heaters.

Mr. LaRue continued the meeting by showing the heat flux instrument, by Medtherm Corporation, that the CPSC staff used for heat flux measurements.

In response to the CPSC work, Mr. Wozniak indicated that UL would take steps to begin an internal project, subject to management approval, to review the requirements for portable electric heaters. This project would include a review of the CPSC staff-developed tests. The project plan may be completed in approximately three months. In



addition, Mr. Wozniak questioned whether UL shouldn't also include convection heaters in its review, since the larger percentage of fire incidents are associated with convection heaters. The CPSC staff agreed that although the known incident reports on radiant heaters was lower than for convection heaters, UL should not delay in addressing the fire hazard caused by ignition of nearby combustibles associated with some radiant heaters.

Mr. Morris requested copies of the video recordings showing heater tests that resulted in ignition of combustibles placed at the heater grills. Ms. Ngo also delivered 25 IDI reports to Mr. Morris at this meeting.