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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Fire Retardant Chemical Association (FRCA)
Spring Conference

DATE OF MEETING: March 11-13, 2001

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 30, 2001

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Allyson Tenney, ESME 

LOCATION: Sheraton at Fisherman's Wharf,
San Francisco, California

CPSC ATTENDEES: Allyson Tenney, ESME

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: FRCA members and other interested parties.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The Fire Retardant Chemical Association Spring Conference focused on issues related to international fire safety. The speakers covered a range of topics including worldwide fire safety developments in standards, environmental issues and product technology.

Several speakers discussed various international fire standards by providing status updates and summaries of recent revisions. One speaker focused on international mattress and upholstered furniture flammability standards. Several member countries of the European Union have become increasingly concerned with the risks associated with mattress and upholstered furniture fires. In an attempt to address these fires (particularly upholstered furniture fires) several member countries have initiated data collection programs, toxicity studies and consumer education campaigns.

An overview of technological developments, fire performance advancements and environmental concerns relating to flame retardants was provided. Particular emphasis was placed on the toxic hazard of building products and furnishings as well as current building and fire codes.

Representatives from California's Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation provided the group with a status update of the Technical Bulletin 117 (TB 117) revision. The Bureau had announced that it was initiating a formal update of TB 117 in 1999. Since the announcement, research efforts have focused on improving the resistance of upholstered furniture to small open-flame while not compromising smolder resistance.

