U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Log of Meeting

Subject: Hair Dryers

Date of Meeting: July 16,2001

Log Entry Source: Sheela Kadambi

Meeting Location: Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

CPSC Attendees: William H. King Jr., Sheela Kadambi, and George Rutherford

Non-CPSC Attendees: Gordon Gillerman UL, Dave Dini UL, Mike Shulman UL, Wayne Morris AHAM, Richard Cripps AHAM, Harvey Gannon NEMA, Douglas M. Troutman NEMA, Bruce Soderholm, Conair, Matthew Carley, Hamilton Beach/Proctor Silex Inc., & Michael Brown of Brown & Freeston PC

Summary of the Meeting:

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) requested to meet with the CPSC staff to discuss the issues in the prior correspondence between CPSC staff dated June 15, 2001 and UL dated June 22, 2001.

Four related issues were discussed. These involved the possibility of incorporating requirements in the UL 859 standard, *Household Electric Personal Grooming Appliances* in the following areas:

1. Strain relief at the GFCI/ALCI plug end of the power cord. The lack of strain relief requirements at the GFCI/ALCI shock protector plug was perceived as an oversight by UL in the standard. Therefore serious consideration will be given by UL to incorporate strain relief requirements at the plug end of the appliance.

2. Incorporate stringent cord flexing requirements. The cord flexing requirements are intended to mimic the wrapping phenomena that a consumer might apply while storing the hair dryer. CPSC staff indicated that the data might support more stringent cord flexing requirements.

3. Improved switch requirements. UL may propose to increase the cycle requirements for the switch to further stress the moveable contacts.

4. Flammability requirements of the enclosure. No flame-retardant tests for V-ratings are required in the standard based on the rationale that the user is present while the appliance is in use. CPSC staff indicated that this issue might warrant reconsideration.

UL staff indicated that they would be looking at issues such as the heating element support, switch tests, supporting surface temperature limits and enclosure flammability. UL staff requested copies of CPSC incident reports, access to samples, any reports of analyses that are conducted on incident samples, and any other pertinent information.

UL staff informed CPSC staff of the establishment of a Standards Technical Panel (STP) and invited the CPSC staff to be a member of this STP. UL is forming this STP of interested parties to aid in the development and maintenance of the standard for safety, UL 859, *Household Electric Personal Grooming Appliances*. CPSC staff suggested a failure analysis should be performed before the planned STP meeting in October 2001. The UL staff said they would take that into consideration.