

MEETING LOG

Meeting Date: June 6, 2001

Location: Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Washington, DC
Meridian Room

Subject: Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Forum on Indoor Air Quality

CPSC Attendee: Treye A. Thomas, Ph.D., Directorate for Health Sciences

The meeting was opened with a welcome from Werner Braun, President, Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI). Mr. Braun stated that CRI was aware of the issues surrounding the potential health effects from carpet use and the need to define the role of CRI in issues of carpet-borne allergens. According to Mr. Braun, CRI would like to be a part of the solution, and he solicited suggestions from interested parties on the areas of research the CRI should undertake. Mr Braun was followed by four presenters, with breaks for discussion following the second and final presentations.

The first speaker, Dr Alan Hedge, Professor, Cornell University, discussed the importance of maintaining good indoor air quality (IAQ) in educational institutions, and the potential health hazards present in environments deficient in good IAQ. Dr. Hedge presented data on the particulates and microorganisms that are present in carpeting. He theorized that carpet fibers trap these entities and prevent them from entering the breathing zone, resulting in minimization of human exposures. He also presented information on volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and carpeting. Dr. Hedge stressed the importance of vacuuming carpet with the best available technology including particulate-trapping vacuum cleaner bags that aid in reducing the potential exposure to particles and biological agents sequestered within the carpet fibers.

The next speaker, Dr. Michael Marcus of Mimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, presented information on the causes of asthma and some of the environmental factors that may exacerbate symptoms in asthmatic individuals. He established that there are several factors that may cause asthma and trigger asthmatic attacks. Following Dr. Marcus, the presentation by Dr. Michael Berry, Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, focused on the importance of maintaining healthy school environments to reduce potential health effects in school-age children and improve their behavior and attitudes. Dr. Barry gave examples of strategies to reduce contaminants including proper training and management of custodial staff, and adequate design and maintenance of the school building.

Finally, Jude Anders, Manager, Product Marketing, Johnson Controls, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, presented information on the importance of maintaining an educational environment that is conducive to learning and productivity and reduces the incidence of illnesses that result from exposure to agents found in improperly maintained buildings. Mr. Anders outlined the factors that must be addressed to maintain the proper



environment with an emphasis on HVAC systems, and evaluation procedures to determine the efficacy of remedial measures.

The CRI intends to sponsor future activities that will focus on the issues discussed at the IAQ forum.