

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

LOG OF MEETING

CPSC/OFC OF THE SECRETARY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

2000 NOV -1 A 8:33

SUBJECT: Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

11/7/00
No. Mfrs./Prvt. Birs or

Products Identified

Accepted by _____

Notified,

Comments Processed

DATE OF MEETING: October 17, 2000

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: William H. King, Jr., ES *WACJ*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: October 26, 2000

LOCATION: Room 612, East West Towers

CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

William H. King, Jr., ES

Doug Lee, ESEE

Andrew Trotta, ESEE

Linda Edwards, ESEE

Ed Krawiec, LS

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Richard Berman, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)

Dave Dini, UL

Richard LaLumondier, National Electrical Mfrs. Assoc. (NEMA)

Aaron Chase, Leviton Mfg. Co., Inc.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Messrs. Berman and Dini from UL requested the meeting to share with CPSC staff some information related to ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs). They presented a 30 second public safety announcement video tape produced by UL to inform consumers of the importance of periodically testing GFCIs. A copy of the video tape was left with the CPSC staff. UL staff also indicated that they continue to work with the NEMA group conducting a survey to determine the rate for operational GFCIs as installed in homes. UL is assisting by evaluating GFCIs collected from the field that did not test when the test button was pushed while in service. Approx. 50 samples have been collected and analyzed to date. About half of the receptacles type GFCIs operated properly when tested in UL's laboratory. As discussed at the meeting, this could be an indication that they were not installed properly in homes, or it could indicate an intermittent failure mechanism.

Mr. King requested that UL consider not opposing CPSC staff proposals to upgrade the National Electrical Code with regard to GFCIs, AFCIs and other safety improvements. It would be helpful to CPSC to receive UL's support. When not possible because legitimate technical safety issues cannot be resolved, at least abstaining would not put the two organizations on opposite sides.

Mr. King also indicated that UL might consider formally establishing levels of GFCI protection, such as:

- Level 1: basic UL 943
- Level 2: deny power if GFCI does not test okay
- Level 3: provide continuous signal if GFCI does not test okay
- Level 4: automatic self-test the electronic circuitry via microprocessor
- Level 5: annunciation/signal reminder to test

Mr. King indicated that similar levels of protection should be considered for arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) also.