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LOG OF MEETING

CPSC OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

P 2:48

SUBJECT: Mattress Flammability and California Legislation Update

DATE OF MEETING: March 7, 2001

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 20, 2001

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Allyson Tenney, ESME *AT*

LOCATION: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST),
Polymers Building, Room B-245, Gaithersburg, Maryland

CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Tom Ohlemiller of NIST presented an overview of the current research project evaluating mattress flammability, sponsored by the Sleep Products Safety Council. The first phase of the research project focused on characterizing the heat impact of burning bedding and developing surrogate gas burners that could simulate the heat impact imposed on a mattress by burning bedding. The second phase, already in its early stages, will evaluate the effects of mattress size, interaction of secondary ignited items and criteria needed to eliminate room flashover. The second phase has recently been expanded to include a supplemental study of filled bedding items (quilts, comforters or pillows) when filled with modified materials.

The group was also updated on the status of the NIST proposal to the U.S. Consumer Product safety Commission (CPSC) to develop a mattress flammability screening test. The current proposal outlines a four-step bench scale test approach that is intended to assess the expected fire behavior of a full-scale mattress.

Karen Hatchel, Chief of California's Bureau of Home Furnishings, updated the group on proposed California legislation to regulate mattresses. The proposed legislation, which would mandate a standard to address open flame ignition of mattresses, is on hold until January 2003. In the meantime, The Bureau intends to closely monitor the progress and conclusions of the NIST mattress flammability research project. A test method coming from this effort could be incorporated in the California legislation, otherwise California Technical Bulletin 129 (TB129) may be used for mattress regulations. A standard could be issued in January 2003 and become effective in July 2003.

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Karen Hatchel updated the group on the revision process of California Technical Bulletin 117 (TB 117), a mandatory standard for upholstered furniture sold in California. The formal revisions of TB 117 are expected to be complete by the end of 2001, after which round robin testing of the revisions will begin.

MARCH 7, 2001

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