

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Flammability of Nightwear for the Elderly

DATE: January 23, 1995

PLACE: CPSC, Bethesda, Maryland

Non-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: See attached list

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: See attached list

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: James F. Hoebel, CPSC *J. F. Hoebel*

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Chairman Brown welcomed the participants, and expressed her concern over the problem of people over 65 who are burned by fires involving nightwear. She emphasized that the CPSC is data-driven, and that there are too many deaths in such fires.

CPSC staff noted that about 20-30 million people are now over 65 years old, and that up to 40 million will be when the "baby boomers" get there.

Mr. Hoebel reviewed past activities, including the development of an information brochure by an Apparel Flammability Advisory Committee, that was subsequently published by AARP; a CPSC project that resulted in a staff recommendation to develop a mandatory garment flammability classification and labeling requirement and an alternative apparel industry proposal for a mandatory warning label requirement; the 1990 Commission decision not to proceed because of insufficient data; and the issuance of a video public service announcement by ATMI warning of the flammability hazard to older consumers.

Ms. Smith reviewed an updated hazard sketch, which is attached. This presentation generated several questions. Additional discussion indicated that deaths from clothing ignition have declined about 59 percent since 1974, and continue to decline through 1991, although not at such a high rate. Recent data count about 118 deaths of people over 65 for all clothing ignitions, and perhaps 60 deaths involving nightwear. Particular note was made that males seem to be overrepresented in the death data. Sources of the data were provided. Injury data presented indicated that 30 percent of clothing ignition burn injuries involved nightwear: a question asked about the breakdown of the other 70 percent. Garment involvement was shown for nightgowns, robes, and pajamas. Garment involvement as a function of age was asked, but these data were not available. A question was asked about whether injuries declined as well.

Possible options to address the problem were discussed, including the approaches considered previously. No consensus was

CPSC  
4/17/95

reached. With the encouragement of the Chairman, most participants agreed to form a working group to continue the effort to identify a reasonable and effective approach to reducing these serious burn injuries and deaths. Garment construction, accident investigations, and consumer education concepts could be examined. Both AAMA and NRF agreed to participate in such a working group. AAMA will seek to involve manufacturers of men's nightwear, in addition to ladies nightwear manufacturers. CPSC staff will take the lead in organizing a meeting of a working group. It is anticipated that AARP, IMRA, ATMI, manufacturers, retailers, and others will cooperate in this work.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

FLAMMABILITY OF NIGHTWEAR FOR THE ELDERLY

January 23, 1995

Ann Brown, Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Mary S. Gall, Commissioner, CPSC  
Eric Rubel, CPSC  
James F. Hoebel, CPSC  
Linda Smith, CPSC/Epidemiology  
Dale Ray, CPSC/Economic Analysis  
Bruce C. Navarro, Counsel to Commissioner Gall, CPSC  
Margaret Neily, CPSC/Engineering  
James V. Ryan, AARP  
Myron Meche, National Retail Federation  
Dennis Hudson, Sears, Roebuck and Co.  
Zafar Khan, American Fiber Manufacturers Assoc.  
Jos Vandermaas, Hoechst Celanese  
Paul Weinle, Collins & Aikman  
Kay Villa, ATMI  
Lisa Ramber, ATMI  
Lesley Rindish, ACTS Testing Labs  
Robert Ladinsky, Val-Mode  
George Adams, Miss Elaine, Inc.  
Karl M. Lazenby, Vanity Fair  
Phyllis Bonanno, Warnaco, Inc.  
Frank N. Martino, Russell-Newman, Inc.  
Robert M. Fiddler, Lanz, Inc.  
Charlie Komar, Komar  
Larry Martin, AAMA  
Michael R. Gale, AAMA  
Meg Farrage, International Mass Retail Assoc.  
Nancy Hobbs, Kmart  
John Whalen, BNA  
John W. Michener, Milliken