

10/2/95

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Fireworks (American Fireworks Safety Laboratory general membership meeting)

DATE: September 6, 1995

TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Grand Hyatt Hotel, 11th and H Streets, NW, Washington, DC

ENTRY SOURCE: Michael Babich, EHHE *MAB*

COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES: Ann Brown, Chairman; David Schmeltzer, EXC; Sam Hall, CRM; and Michael Babich, EHHE

NON-COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES: Representatives of fireworks trade associations and businesses, including John Rogers, American Fireworks Safety Laboratory (AFSL) and Dr. John Conkling, American Pyrotechnics Association (APA).

Summary: Chairman Ann Brown, David Schmeltzer (EXC), and Sam Hall (CRM) were invited speakers. Mr. Rogers (AFSL) stated that AFSL has 80 member companies including importers and shippers. Its members account for 50-60 percent of the Chinese fireworks imported into the U.S. Chairman Brown cited three areas of concern to CPSC: compliance with existing regulations, illegal class B fireworks, and CPSC's hazard identification and reduction activities, such as the rulemaking on multiple tube devices and review of fireworks regulations. Mr. Schmeltzer emphasized the important role of the AFSL in fireworks safety, while stating clearly that CPSC will continue to enforce fireworks regulations. Mr Hall reviewed CPSC's recent compliance activities. Dr. Conkling discussed the AFSL voluntary standard and CPSC's proposed rule for multiple tube mine and shell devices. Dr. Conkling stated that the foam test (i.e., the AFSL standard) was conceived as a "worst case" test. With regard to the proposed rule, he stated that AFSL will support the 60 degree tip angle test (i.e., the CPSC proposed rule). However, AFSL will suggest that the rule include a provision for dynamic testing of devices that fail the tilt test but which are stable in live tests. Dr. Conkling noted that the tilt test was developed with devices having no more than 12 grams of lift charge. Tests conducted by AFSL show that more powerful devices may tip over even though they pass the tip test. Finally, Dr. Conkling observed that the tilt test is preferable to live testing because live testing may be dangerous. Andrew Rider (AFSL) discussed AFSL's testing program. In 1995, the overall compliance rate 1995 was 62 percent. The compliance rate was highest for firecrackers (96 percent) and lowest for rockets (29 percent). Mr. Rider also stated that AFSL is developing a program to certify fireworks factories. Based on data from the National Council on Fireworks Safety, the injury rate per 100,000 pounds was 40 in 1976 and about 10 in 1994. The amount of fireworks imported increased from 30 million pounds in 1976 to 120 million pounds in 1994.

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