

LOG OF MEETING

CPSC ✓
2/21/95

SUBJECT: Upholstered Furniture Risk Assessment

DATE OF MEETING: March 8, 1995

PLACE: CPSC, Bethesda, ND

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Dr. John Hall, National Fire Protection Association
John Blair, National Fire Protection Research Foundation
Board (Dupont)
Rick Mulhaupt, President, National Fire Protection Research
Foundation

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

James F. Hoebel, Engineering
Dale Ray, Economic Analysis, Project Manager, Upholstered
Furniture
Margaret Neily, Engineering
Rikki Khanna, Engineering
Elizabeth Leland, Economic Analysis

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: James F. Hoebel *James F. Hoebel*

SUMMARY:

The National Fire Protection Research Foundation (NFPRF) conducted a substantial research project a few years ago that resulted in a fire risk assessment model capable of analyzing the risk presented by certain fires. It is based on applying probability projections to various fire hazard scenarios. CPSC staff participated, along with many other technical representatives, in the advisory group to the NFPRF project. The risk assessment model is called "Frameworks".

Dale Ray reviewed the current CPSC project on upholstered furniture. CPSC will be developing a test method(s) that could form the basis of a voluntary or mandatory standard covering the flammability performance of upholstered furniture. The visitors suggested that Frameworks could help CPSC decide the most productive and beneficial approach to such a standard. There are at least seven flammability parameters that one might control in order to produce furniture that is safer, including ignition, heat release, flame spread, toxicity, etc. Frameworks was presented to CPSC as an analytical tool to calculate the most efficient parameter to control. The NFPRF representatives stated that now is an appropriate time to use such a tool: at the least, CPSC would get input on how to set test method specifications (i.e., acceptance); at the most, the agency would be applying a new way of resolving regulatory issues.

✓
(2)

It was not clear how to set up such a project, or how it could be funded. NFPRF is aware of the CPSC funding limitations. Past NFPRF projects involved setting up joint funding by all interested parties, who would participate in an advisory group overseeing the progress of the project. NFPRF will provide additional materials, and further discussions are anticipated.