

**LOG OF MEETING**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** Commissioner Thomas Moore's Meeting with  
Representatives from the Snell Memorial Foundation

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 28, 1995    **PLACE:** CPSC Headquarters,  
Bethesda, MD

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Scott Heh, ESME *M*

**DATE OF ENTRY:** July 10, 1995

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Commissioner Thomas H. Moore,  
Pamela L. Weller-COTM, Michael Gougisha-COTM, Scott Heh-ESME

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Dr. Harold Fenner-Snell Memorial  
Foundation, Hong Zhang-Snell Memorial Foundation, Philip  
Graitcer-Professor of Public Health at Emory University

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

Dr. Fenner briefed Commissioner Moore on what the Snell Memorial Foundation is and how it operates. He explained that Snell is a not for profit organization that develops helmet safety standards for motorcycle helmets, bicycle helmets, auto racing helmets, harness racing helmets, and non-motorized recreational use helmets. Snell does their own certification testing in laboratories located in New York, California, and the United Kingdom. Dr. Fenner explained that what sets Snell apart from most standards is their enforcement program. Manufacturers that certify their helmets with Snell agree to allow Snell to perform random sample certification testing on helmets taken from the retail shelves. Commissioner Moore asked what percentage of helmets on the market are Snell certified. Dr. Fenner said that one year ago, Snell certified 85% of the helmets on the market.

Dr. Fenner briefly discussed issues related to child helmet standards. He said that research indicates that young children have a higher tolerance to head injury than adults. He therefore feels that children's helmets do not need to be impact tested to different criteria than adult helmets.

Dr. Fenner also expressed that there is a consumer need to purchase one helmet that will provide head protection for a variety of different activities (e.g. bicycling, roller/in-line skating, skateboarding). Snell supported this concept by developing a Headgear Standard For Use in Non-Motorized Sports (the Snell N-94 standard). This standard requires extended coverage at the back of the head and requires the helmet to withstand multiple impacts at a single location on the helmet. Only one helmet on the market is currently certified to this standard.

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Products Identified  
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Dr. Fenner offered Snell support of CPSC efforts to promote head protection. He invited CPSC staff to visit the Snell laboratories to observe their advanced helmet testing equipment and methods. CPSC staff have been planning to visit their New York facility, but have not yet had an opportunity to go.

The meeting ended with Commissioner Moore thanking Dr. Fenner, Mr. Graitcer, and Ms. Zhang for their visit and the opportunity to learn more about the Snell Memorial Foundation.

cc

Commissioner Thomas Moore  
Pamela Weller-COTM  
Michael Gougisha-COTM  
OS  
ES  
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