

CFSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
2/6/70/197
No Mrs. P. H. B. or
Products Identified
Excepted by
Firms Notified.
Comments Processed.

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ANSI Subcommittees C18-1M meeting to discuss revisions, harmonization with IEC battery standards, for Portable Non-Lithium Primary Batteries -- Specifications.

DATE OF MEETING: 9/12/95 **PLACE:** WASHINGTON MARIOTT
1221 22nd St. NW
Washington, DC

DATE OF ENTRY: September 13, 1995

SOURCE OF ENTRY: Mai Ngo, ESEE

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Dennis McCoskrie, ESEE
Mai Ngo, ESEE

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: See attached roster

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr. Wilberg led a discussion of proposed revisions to ANSI C18-1. At the beginning of the meeting, it was decided to change the name of the document from "American National Standard for Dry Cells and Batteries -- Specifications" to "American National Standard for Portable Non-Lithium Primary Batteries -- Specifications". In addition, a consensus was reached to add a list of specific chemical systems to the document:

- (1) carbon zinc (LeClanche and zinc-chloride types)
- (2) alkaline manganese dioxide
- (3) mercuric oxide
- (4) silver oxide
- (5) zinc air

Mr. McCoskrie inquired about the certification and enforcement provisions of the ANSI C18 Battery Standards. Various members of the subcommittee explained that the standards were completely voluntary. They stated that compliance is self-certified by the battery manufacturer and that there is no strict requirement that a manufacturer comply with these standards, whether or not the manufacturer belongs to the C18 committee or subcommittees. Also they indicated that if a battery manufacturer, foreign or domestic, falsely claimed compliance with these standards on the label or packaging, there is no enforcement mechanism to stop this practice. However, one subcommittee member commented that the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards have some enforcement provisions to prevent or stop false labeling as to compliance with these international standards.

Next, Mr. McCoskrie recommended expanding the present safety guidelines to include an illustrated example of a safe battery

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compartment. Illustrations on safety warnings are already included in the International Committee of Toy Industries Standard, British Standard, and European Standard. He offered help from CPSC Human Factors personnel on the warning texts to be used with the illustrations. He also asked for a flash-current tabulation showing the discharge characteristics of a short-circuit test on fully-charged batteries of the common types provided by different manufacturers. Mr. DeJager responded favorably to the request, although he warned that short-circuit current is not consistent, because it varies with minor variations in battery chemistry. Mr. Wilberg did not anticipate any problem with providing the tabulation to the CPSC at a later date. However, he mentioned that there could be variances introduced by variations in measurement techniques of different manufacturers. These discussions constituted the CPSC staff's participation in the meeting on Tuesday, 12 September 95.

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

On Wednesday, 13 September 95, the CPSC staff members did not attend the meeting of ANSI Subcommittee C18-2 on Sealed Rechargeable Nickel-Cadmium Cylindrical Bare Cells. It should be noted, however, that the CPSC staff still recommends that the maximum allowable surface temperature in a short circuit test of EIA/IS-100.1 and .2 Interim Standards for Replacement NiCd and Lead Acid Portable Consumer Camcorder Batteries should be lowered from the present 85°C.



United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20207

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 19, 1995

TO : Ken Giles
EXPA

FROM : Dennis McCoskrie
ESEE

SUBJECT: Two sentences for PSL Re: ANSI C18-1

Two CPSC staff members attended the meeting of ANSI subcommittee C18-1, Tuesday, September 12, in Washington. They commented on the safety aspects of the proposed new revision of ANSI C19.1M, which includes recommended characteristics for all commonly marketed portable dry cells, except those containing lithium. During the discussion, industry members of the ANSI committee pointed out that they try to provide guidance for the safe use of batteries, but have no control over the design of products that include batteries or the safety instructions provided with these products. It was also mentioned that conformance to this standard is certified by the battery manufacturer, rather than by an independent laboratory.

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