

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting with AHAM on Alternative Refrigerant Safety

DATE OF MEETING: August 2, 1995 **PLACE:** CPSC

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Roy Deppa, ESME *Rud*

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Ronald Medford, EXHR
William King, ESEE
Lori Saltzman, EHHE
Roy Deppa, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Leonard Swatkowski, Appliance Industry-Government CFC Replacement Consortium, Inc., Stephen Zielezienski, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, representing AHAM, Wayne Morris, AHAM, Edward McInerney, General Electric, Todd Leewenburgh, Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The main focus of the meeting was to discuss potential action by CPSC on safety issues associated with the phaseout of ozone-depleting CFC refrigerants and the adoption of alternative refrigerants. The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers had met earlier with members of the staff to request CPSC's involvement.

The AHAM representatives described in some detail the technical issues involved in the design and function of refrigerators, the role and characteristics of various refrigerants, and the potential sources of hazards associated with the use of flammable refrigerants.

AHAM requested that CPSC take a proactive role in this safety issue, including working with the Environmental Protection Agency, Underwriters Laboratories, the Department of Energy, and the National Fire Protection Administration to serve as a focal point for concerns over the potential safety of consumer products that might include flammable hydrocarbon refrigerants. AHAM stated that they were requesting this activity by CPSC because they desire a public review of the issues both for new designs and for the servicing of existing products. They stressed that while they have control of the application of refrigerants in their new products, they do not have much hold on the service sector where additional hazards might be introduced through the retrofitting of old products with new refrigerants.

AHAM stressed that they were not raising this issue with CPSC for competitive reasons, but solely because of the safety implications related to their products.

The AHAM representatives strongly suggested that CPSC staff members attend the upcoming International Conference on CFC and

CPSC 4/1/95 closed

X No new products or
Product Information

12-5-95
[Signature]

Halon Alternatives to be held in Washington in October. They provided the names of organizing people to contact about attending this meeting.

Mr. Medford stated that CPSC staff would continue to investigate this potential safety issue and that consultations would be held with the CPSC General Counsel and with other agencies to determine what potential role the agency might have. He further stated that he would contact AHAM by mid-September with an update on CPSC activities.