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MEETING LOG  
 DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ANSI Z21/Canadian Gas Association Joint  
 Subcommittee on Standard for Gas Water Heaters

PLACE: Sheraton Tara Braintree, Braintree, MA

MEETING DATE: June 14-15, 1995

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: April 22, 1996

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald W. Switzer ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Daryl Hosler, Chairman | Joe A. Akin, Jr    |
| James T. Anderson      | Robert R. Cole     |
| Paul E. Beach          | Chris Beugley      |
| H. Herbert Doty        | Ronnie Ray Frazier |
| Raymond Gregg          | Robert E. Hamos    |
| William T. Harrigill   | John Jacklich      |
| Jay R. Katchka         | Eric M. Lannes     |
| J. Toms                | John Marshall      |
| R. Michael Martin      | John F. McGraw     |
| Wilbur Haag            | Henry Jack Moore   |
| P. C. Nanda            | Drew Smith         |
| Otto Vago              | Larry L. Westling  |
| Rand Ackroyd           | Walt Ashcroft      |
| Tim Begoske            | Joseph Boros       |
| Dan Bradford           | Adrian Cavestany   |
| Carlos Chardon         | Jeff Crisafulli    |
| Jacod Hall             | Shamel Kassab      |
| Linda Knox             | John Cairo         |
| Jack Langmead          | Joseph F McHugh    |
| Morry Morisetti        | Frank Myers        |
| Ed Nordstrom           | John Norton        |
| Paul Polverari         | Jim Ranfone        |
| Allen Rutz             | Frank Stanonik     |
| Henry Troost           | XiangSheng Wang    |

MEETING SUMMARY

The Joint subcommittee consists of representatives of the gas-fired water heaters industry, utilities, regulatory agencies, and other interested. It's purpose is to provide technical guidance on water heater issues to the full American National

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Standards Institute (ANSI) Z21 Committee on Performance and Installation of Gas-Burning Appliances and Related Equipment. Many agenda Items were discussed at this meeting. This meeting log is limited to those items directly pertaining to on-going Commission projects.

- Item 4           REPORT FROM WORKING GROUP ADDRESSING SUGGESTED REVISIONS TO REDUCE POSSIBLE IGNITION OF FLAMMABLE VAPORS BY VOLUME I WATER HEATERS (No action requested, for information only)

At its September 22-23, 1994 meeting, the water heater subcommittee drafted a request to the parent Z21 Committee to establish formal liaison between the Gas Research Institute (GRI), CPSC and the standards writing group. The Z21 Committee, at its April 6, 1995, meeting noted that there is now "strong liaison" between the technical subcommittee, GRI and CPSC. The Z21 Committee therefore chose not to establish "formal communications" and rely instead on existing communications. CPSC staff concurs with this position in light of the excellent cooperation between GRI, and CPSC at this time.

Mr. Robert Hemphill from GRI briefed the subcommittee about on-going TAG efforts to develop a flammable vapor ignition resistance test methodology. He noted that the consensus of the TAG was to proceed with the test chamber characterization since this approach provides a reliable, reproducible, and safe approach to test water heater in the presence of flammable vapors. Mr. Hemphill stated that the test method is progressing well and emphasized that information will be forwarded to the appropriate groups as needed to revise standards. Staff concurs with Mr. Hemphill's characterization of progress in developing the test methodology.

- Item 14           REQUEST TO GATHER INFORMATION AND DATA ON INCIDENTS WITH CENTRAL FURNACES COMMON VENTED WITH DRAFT HOOD-EQUIPPED WATER HEATERS

It was brought to the subcommittee's attention that a potential hazard may exist when a "mid-efficiency" furnace is common vented with a draft hood-equipped water heater. The inducer fan on the furnace creates a positive pressure at the joint between the vents for the furnace and water heater which could result in spillage from the water heater draft hood. The subcommittee members were requested to provide available information. The subcommittee requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

- Item 19           DELETION OF REDUNDANT COVERAGE CONCERNING REMOVABILITY OF BURNERS FOR SERVICE

The subcommittee was requested to delete the current coverage which requires that the burner and pilot be easily removable to allow servicing and cleaning. The requester stated that the current provisions are design restrictive and prohibits the use of sealed combustion chamber appliances. The subcommittee rejected the request on the grounds that the request seems to be "aimed at one new burner design." Staff believes that a change of this type may at some time prove to be needed for possible vapor ignition resistant designs.