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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: ASTM D 7016 standard for mattress tape edge materials, a new barrier fabric test, and a guide for sewers

DATE OF MEETING: July 26, 2004

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: July 26, 2004

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESFS *M*

LOCATION: Room 714, CPSC Headquarters, Bethesda, MD

CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Vincent Diaz and Calvin Cruz of Atlantic Thread & Supply Company, Inc. shared several approaches developed by their company and others to address factors affecting quality assurance for component materials (tape, thread and barriers) and mattress assembly under California's new mattress flammability standard, TB 603. Since a systems approach is needed to produce consistently complying mattresses, they have been working in partnerships with barrier producers and sewing equipment manufacturers to assure the performance of their products is not defeated by other variables. Variables that must be controlled to assure compliance include: thread, tape, barrier, mattress design, and assembly.

Thread, tape and barriers need component certifications to provide quality assurance and help pinpoint unexpected problems that could develop. Some independent test laboratories (Underwriters Laboratories and SGS Testing) are working to develop such quality assurance programs and will be offering a listing service for mattresses meeting TB 603. A new standard, ASTM D 7016-04, may be used to check the structural integrity of materials used at the tape edge of a mattress (tape and thread).

Atlantic Thread and partners have also developed a small-scale test that measures the thermal resistance or heat transfer through a barrier material to internal components like polyurethane foam. This test may also be useful for assuring the consistency of incoming barrier supplies, but NOT for justifying the use of different, substitute barrier materials during production.

Because improper mattress assembly can create a number of problems affecting the fire performance, Atlantic Thread has developed a guide (in Spanish and English) to assist production staff. It explains the importance of correct seam and stitch formation, panel closures, and other details that have now become critical.

