

**LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

SUBJECT: Meeting on Wired Glass

DATE OF MEETING: October 23, 2003

PLACE OF MEETING: CPSC Headquarters, Bethesda, MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Mark Kumagai, ESME, 10-24-03 *MK*

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CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Attendee	Office
Jacqueline Elder	Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction
Judith Hayes	Office of Compliance
Scott Heh	Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction
Mark Kumagai	Directorate for Engineering Sciences
Lowell Martin	Office of the General Council
Arthur McDonald	Directorate for Epidemiology
Alan Schoem	Office of Compliance
Mary Toro	Office of Compliance

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Attendee	Affiliation/Company
Greg Abel	Advocates for Safe Glass
Michael Bell	Wired Glass Manufacturers
Lloyd Potter	Children's Safety Network
Senator Vicki Walker	Oregon State Senator
Susan Winn	Consumer Federation of America

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

CPSC staff met with Mr. Greg Abel, Chair of Advocates for Safe Glass, Oregon State Senator Vicki Walker, and other individuals on wired glass. Mr. Abel requested the meeting.

Mr. Abel presented printed material and videos to communicate his concerns about the use of wired glass in public locations such as schools. Mr. Abel explained that his son was severely injured when he broke through a wired glass panel at the University of Oregon. He founded Advocates for Safe Glass after this incident.

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Mr. Abel reported that beginning in 2003 the International Building Code (IBC) does not allow wired glass in school (K-12) gymnasiums. Mr. Abel described the wire glass manufacturers and his view of the ANSI Z 97 committee and process. He also presented the standards and requirements used in other countries.

Mr. Abel stated that most people have a false perception that wired glass is designed to be safe against impact. He believes that many schools are in violation of CFR 1201.1 by using the product in interior areas that are not critical to fire safety. He noted that there are alternative glass products and treatments that can be used to meet fire safety. He feels that these products are a cost-effective way to address the issue.

Senator Walker introduced an Oregon State bill (SB 824) to prohibit the use of wired glass in school gymnasiums. As a result, she said that the Oregon State Building Code adopted the IBC code to prohibit wired glass in school gymnasiums. Senator Walker claimed that the wired glass industry is misleading the public by calling wired glass "safety glass".

Senator Walker requested that the CPSC create a separate NEISS code for wired glass. CPSC staff responded that requesting the hospital coders to identify in the narrative that wired glass was involved would be more effective. CPSC staff assured her that this has been implemented.

Mr. Potter and Ms. Winn also supported Mr. Abel's desire to eliminate wired glass related impact injuries.

Mr. Abel concluded that injuries from impact to wired glass can be addressed by properly educating builders of the proper use, retrofitting existing buildings by applying laminate material to wired glass and requiring builders to use fire and impact safe glass for new construction.

CPSC staff committed to considering the material presented.