

LOG OF MEETING

CPSC 8 (b)(7) Cleared
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1444

SUBJECT: Flammability of Television Enclosures and Computer Monitor Enclosures.

DATE: February 5, 1998

PLACE: Room 518, East West Towers

1998 FEB 10 P 1:02

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: February 6, 1998

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: William H. King, Jr., ESEE *Wmk*

CPSC PARTICIPANTS:

William H. King, Jr., ESEE
Hammad Malik, ESEE
James Hoebel, ES

NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:

Traian Jay, Great Lakes Chemical Corp.
Debi Richardson, The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.

SUMMARY:

Mr. Jay requested this meeting to share with the CPSC staff the recent European experience with regard to the flammability of enclosures for television receivers and personal computer monitors. Mr. Jay reported on a study jointly sponsored by the European Brominated Flame Retardant Industry Panel and the European Flame Retardant Association. A written report on the study is not yet available and Mr. Jay indicated that he would provide the CPSC staff with a copy when it becomes available.

Mr. Jay indicated that television receiver (TV) fires represent a significant percentage of electrical fires reported in Europe. He further indicated that the trend has been upward since 1990, after a downward trend in the 1980's. Mr. Jay offered an explanation for this change. He indicated that, while the accepted safety standard for this product in Europe, IEC 65, contains requirements for flame retardant enclosure materials, the standard does permit certain exceptions. These exceptions permit an HB rated (non-flame retardant) material when there is separation between potential ignition sources and the cabinet. Mr. Jay further indicated that manufacturers of TVs may have changed cabinet materials in recent years to HB rated polymers as a result of concern by environmental groups regarding the use halogenated flame retardants in TV cabinet materials. Mr. Jay stated that the environmental risk involving this application of flame retardants was insignificant, while the increasing risk of fire was significant.

Mr. Jay indicated that the study also confirmed that current personal computer monitors still retain product enclosures that have a high ignition resistance.

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