

CPSA (6/5/97) Cleared  
4/8/98  
Products of Interest  
Excluded by  
Items Notified  
Comments Processed

**LOG OF MEETING**

**SUBJECT:** Discussion of various electrical and fire topics with the staff of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

**DATE:** April 2, 1998

**PLACE:** Room 410A  
East West Towers

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** April 6, 1998

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

**CPSC PARTICIPANTS:**

- William H. King, Jr., ESEE
- James Hoebel, ES
- Andrew Stadnik, ES
- Colin Church, EXHR
- Ronald Reichel, LSE
- Edward Krawiec, LSE
- Aaron Banerjee, ESEE
- Mai Ngo, ESEE
- Sheela Kadambi, ESEE
- Andrew Trotta, ESEE
- Hammad Malik, ESEE
- Douglas Lee, ESEE
- Anna Luo, ESEE
- Deborah Lewis, CAL
- Diane Porter, LSE

**NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:**

- James Beyreis, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)
- John Drengenberg, UL
- David Haataja, UL
- Gordon Gillerman, UL
- John Knecht, Intertek Testing Services
- Joan Sterling, Intertek Testing Services
- Wayne Morris, Assoc. of Home Appliance Mfrs.

**SUMMARY:**

This meeting between the CPSC staff and staff members of Underwriters Laboratories was for the purpose of reviewing the overall status of product safety topics of mutual interest, and not for the purpose of in-depth technical discussions of each topic. Twelve topics were covered at the meeting. A meeting agenda is attached.

A brief synopsis of the outcome of each topic is noted below:

**Clothes Drying Equipment** - CPSC staff described the project activity currently underway at CPSC. CPSC engineers are evaluating the applicable safety standards for both electric and

gas clothes drying appliances. Several appliance samples are being examined. The role of dryer venting is being considered. The impact of energy efficiency requirements is being assessed. UL staff suggested that their primary designated engineer meet with the CPSC staff on this topic in the July/August timeframe.

**Dishwashers** - CPSC staff described the project activity involving dishwashers. In fiscal year 1998, CPSC staff is in the process of conducting in-depth investigations of dishwasher incidents in order to gather clues to failure mechanisms that may be related to reports of fires. In fiscal year 1999, CPSC staff will conduct an engineering review of the data collected and assess the adequacy of the UL voluntary standard for this product. UL staff suggested that this topic be included in a meeting with their primary designated engineer in the July/August timeframe.

**Grounding Connections in Cord-Connected Appliances** - UL staff provided an update of their review of requirements applicable to connecting the grounding conductor of the power supply cord to the frame of an appliance. To achieve greater harmonization between various end-product standards, UL will be proposing across-the-board requirements for this topic. They will provide the CPSC staff with a draft proposal for comment. UL's current schedule is to issue the proposal in mid-1998.

**Countertop Cooking Appliances** - CPSC staff provided an overview of the specific actions for the appliances involved. For automatic toasters, CPSC staff awaits the results of a UL Hazard Based Safety Engineering analysis, after providing UL with 18 in-depth investigations. For toaster oven/broilers, CPSC staff will provide copies of in-depth investigation reports to UL for review in connection with a CPSC staff proposal for addressing unintended operation of the appliance. CPSC already commented on a proposed UL requirement for a food fire containment test. For deep fat fryers, CPSC is completing its engineering analysis and will be prepared to discuss its findings related to the spillage of cooking oil with UL in the May/June timeframe. For hot plates, coffeemakers and breadmakers, the staffs of CPSC and UL will further discuss CPSC's planned activities for these products in the upcoming months.

**Arc Fault Interrupters** - UL reported that their industry advisory group recently met and decided on terminology that would apply to arc fault interrupter (AFI) technology. UL noted that branch circuit AFIs are those designed to offer branch circuit protection. Outlet AFIs would be receptacle devices designed to provide more sensitive protection for plugged in products. Portable AFIs would include temporary power taps (outlet strips) incorporating AFI protection for appliance cords and appliances. Cord AFIs are those designed for single appliance application. UL requested that CPSC staff provide any comments on the first draft of the AFI standard that they may wish to make, and submit them in the upcoming couple of weeks.

**High-Current, Battery-Operated Ride-On Toys** - CPSC staff acquainted UL staff regarding proposals that they submitted to ASTM calling for basic requirements for wiring and switches used in these products. The circuits in these products involve energy

levels that can present the risk of fire.

**Fire Safety Devices** - CPSC staff briefed UL on the work completed during the past year on fire blankets, fire extinguishers, and escape ladders. With regard to extinguishers, CPSC suggested that UL and CPSC staffs work together in order to improve the NFPA requirements for labeling for the types of fire extinguishers used in homes.

**Range Fires** - CPSC staff briefly explained the completed three phases of the work done to date and the plans for the Phase IV work being conducted this fiscal year. It was noted that the UL staff attended the CPSC-industry meeting held on March 24, 1998 and received detailed information on all phases at that time.

**Christmas Tree Lighting/Decorations** - CPSC reviewed the recalls associated with miniature light sets that incorporated splices (known as curtain or icicle lights). CPSC inquired as to whether UL will certify miniature lights sets with splices in the future. UL indicated that splices are not permitted in light strings, but may be permitted in decorative lighting outfits. UL will clarify this point if any change is contemplated.

**Electric Blankets** - UL indicated that requirements for positive temperature coefficient (PTC) heating elements were being prepared for inclusion within their standard. CPSC staff requested a chance to review the draft, and will base any comments on work conducted by CPSC staff with this construction.

**Tubular Halogen Bulbs in Portable Lamps** - CPSC staff noted that it reviewed the most recent UL bulletin dated March 18, 1998 which contained some of the proposed new UL requirements for halogen torchiere lamps. Other new requirements (e.g., 300 watt limitation, guard specifications) were contained in the November 7, 1997 bulletin. UL indicated that an adoption bulletin will be issued in approximately six weeks which will contain all of the new requirements and the effective date.

**Twist-on Connectors for Aluminum Wire** - CPSC staff noted that it recently sent to UL a letter summarizing the findings of a field experience with this type of connector. CPSC staff indicated that it has no plans at the present time to further evaluate samples collected during the site visit. UL staff indicated that they are preparing their response to the CPSC letter.

**Other Business** - In order to be sure that appropriate CPSC staff receive printed copies of UL bulletins on a timely basis, CPSC staff will provide UL with a list of UL subject numbers for which there is an interest in receiving this type of information. CPSC staff currently receive diskettes containing proposed new and revised UL requirements, along with diskettes that contain the actual new and revised standards.

UL staff mentioned that they were considering requirements for aquarium heaters and would share any proposals with CPSC staff. CPSC staff indicated that incidents of fires associated with this product, when configured in glass tubes, have received some engineering attention in the past several years.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

UL - CPSC TECHNICAL MEETING

April 2, 1998, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Room 410A  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

AGENDA

10:00 Introductions  
10:15 Clothes Drying Equipment  
10:30 Dishwashers  
10:45 Grounding Connections in Three-Wire, Cord-Connected Appliances  
11:00 Countertop Cooking Appliances  
11:15 Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters  
11:30 High-Current, Battery-Operated Ride-On Toys  
11:45 Lunch Break  
1:15 Fire Safety Devices  
1:30 Range Fires  
1:45 Christmas Tree Lighting/Decorations  
2:00 Electric Blankets  
2:15 Tubular Halogen Bulbs in Portable Lamps  
2:30 Twist-on Connectors for Aluminum Wire  
2:45 Wrap Up/Action Items Review  
3:00 Adjourn