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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Testing of Flame Resistant Fabrics--Laundering Update

DATE OF MEETING: November 17, 1997

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: December 9, 1997

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESME *MM*

LOCATION: CPSC, East West Towers, Bethesda, MD

CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Members of the Soap and Detergent Association requested the meeting to learn about CPSC's testing of flame resistant fabrics with current laundering methods and detergents. Margaret Neily reviewed the staff's work in updating the laundering methods and detergents required by Flammable Fabrics Act (FFA) standards (sleepwear, carpets & rugs, and mattress pads) to ensure that flame resistant properties of the products are maintained during their use life.

The standards reference a voluntary standard, AATCC 124, using AATCC 124 phosphate-built detergent. The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists recently issued AATCC 124-1996, including updates for laundering equipment (energy efficient) and detergent (non-phosphate built) that reflect those available to consumers today.

The staff is developing a briefing package with an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to make appropriate changes in the laundering procedures/standard detergent. The staff conducted come comparison tests to identify potential impact of this update. The only treated products available were two sleepwear fabrics, one treated with an organic phosphorous compound and another with antimony trioxide. Along with untreated FR polyester fabrics, these were exposed to tests with old and new laundering equipment, AATCC 124 and 1993 standard detergents, commercial (home) powder and liquid detergents (all non-phosphate), and a limited number of minor laundering variables. The only problem was with the organic phosphorous FR treatment when laundered with non-phosphate powder detergents. Failing specimens showed a unique build-up of calcium and magnesium.

The Soap and Detergent Association offered their expertise in support of the staff's efforts. They were willing to comment on and suggest questions to be included in the draft ANPR and share insights on relevant industry trends and consumer practices.

ATTENDANCE

Soap & Detergent Association
Tests of FR Fabrics to the Children's Sleepwear Flammability Standard
 November 17, 1997

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