

MEETING LOG

UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
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No Mfrs/PrvtLabs or
Products Identified
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1998 APR -7 A 7:50

Meeting Between: CPSC staff and members of the ASTM E5.15 Subcommittee on Furnishings & Contents, and ASTM Work Group on Small Open Flame Ignition of Upholstered Furniture

Date of Meeting: December 9, 1997

Site of Meeting: Sheraton San Diego Hotel, San Diego, CA

Meeting Topic: Upholstered Furniture Flammability

Log Entry By: Dale R. Ray, EC
Project Mgr., Upholstered Furniture

Participants: ASTM: Kurt Reimann, BASF Corp. (Work Group Chmn.)
Henry Roux, Roux Int'l. (Work Group Chmn.)
Tom Fritz, Armstrong (Subcommittee Chmn.)
and about 50 other members and attendees

CPSC: Dale Ray, Project Manager

Summary:

This meeting of the ASTM E.05-15 Subcommittee included discussion of two topics related to CPSC's work in the upholstered furniture flammability area: activities of the Small Open Flame Ignition Work Group; and activities of the Cigarette Ignition Propensity Work Group. Dr. Reimann, chairman of the small open flame work group, moderated the discussion on upholstered furniture; Dr. Roux, new chairman of the cigarette ignition work group, led the discussion on that topic.

Mr. Ray presented an update of CPSC activities on upholstered furniture flammability, including a summary of the information and recommendations in the October, 1997 CPSC staff briefing package on small open flame and cigarette ignition fire hazards. Information new to the ASTM work group included results of the CPSC staff's fire investigation study, bench scale testing, economic analysis, and flame retardant chemical toxicity review. The provision's of the staff's draft small open flame standard were also discussed. Mr. Ray also reiterated the staff's continuing support for the work group's activities that could lead to either an ASTM voluntary standard or to small open flame provisions in the existing UFAC voluntary program. Mr. Ray addressed a number of questions from the meeting participants about various aspects of the CPSC standards development process.



Topics included:

- o the potential benefits of raising the level of industry conformance to the UFAC program, as an alternative to a standard;
- o the procedure under which CPSC might consider ongoing voluntary standards development work, or defer to an existing voluntary standard;
- o concerns about the use of non-FR foam filling materials under the draft standard;
- o conditions or scenarios represented by CPSC's chemical laboratory tests;
- o the possibility of adopting existing U.K. regulations in their entirety, instead of specific portions; and
- o whether the California foams tested in CPSC's bench scale program actually complied with California's TB-117 standard.

Dr. Reimann also stated his view that the mockup seating area test in the CPSC staff's draft standard, which examines the performance of fabrics over a standard foam, would ease the burden of a standard on industry, and may therefore be a more workable approach for the work group. The work group plans to continue its activities regardless of the Commission's upcoming vote on regulatory options. Members of the work group also stated their support for CPSC's intention to gather additional information on the FR chemical toxicity issue.

In the cigarette ignition propensity test discussion, several subcommittee members made presentations supporting their votes on whether to adopt a recent NIST test method as a proposed ASTM test. There was substantial discussion about the tobacco industry's statistical analysis of NIST's test data. The continuing disagreement over whether the NIST test adequately measures cigarette ignition propensity did not appear to be near resolution.