CPSC MEETING LOG
UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE & BEDDING

Meeting Between: CPSC staff and members of ASTM E5.15 Subcommittee Task Groups

Date of Meeting: September 24, 1998

Site of Meeting: ASTM Headquarters, West Conshohocken, PA

Meeting Topic: Upholstered Furniture/Small Open Flame Ignition and Mattresses

Log Entry By: Dale R. Ray, EC (301) 504-0962 x. 1323

Participants: ASTM: Kurt Reimann, BASF Corp. (Task Group Chmn.)
Tom Fritz, Armstrong (Subcommittee Chmn.)
Herman Forsten, DuPont & Co.
Paul Dillon, President, Sleep Products Safety Council (Task Group Chmn.), and
19 others representing ASTM staff, textile, furniture, chemical, & tobacco industries.

CPSC: Dale Ray, EC
Project Mgr., Upholstered Furniture

Summary:

This meeting of the ASTM E.05-15 Subcommittee included discussion of two topics related to CPSC: activities of the Upholstered Furniture Small Open Flame Ignition Work Group; and activities of the Mattress Round Robin Work Group. Dr. Reimann, chairman of the small open flame work group, moderated the discussion on upholstered furniture; Mr. Dillon, chairman of the mattress round robin work group, led that discussion.

Dr. Reimann opened the upholstered furniture task group meeting by reiterating the group's position that it would take no further action to develop a voluntary standard until more information became available on flame retardant (FR) chemicals. Mr. Ray presented an update of CPSC activities on upholstered furniture flammability, including a summary of a) the FY 99 Appropriations bill amendment from Rep. Wicker; b) CPSC laboratory work and meetings with industry on a variety of flammability and flame retardant (FR) chemical issues; c) staff work on evaluating the potential toxicity of FR fabric treatments; and d) ongoing and planned work on economic and environmental analyses of regulatory alternatives. Mr. Ray addressed a number of questions from the meeting participants about various aspects of the CPSC standards development process, especially about the likely schedule for completion of the

staff's technical work; Mr. Ray stated that some portions of the laboratory work and toxicity review would be completed within the next few months, but that information from these studies would probably not be available in CY 98.

Dr. Forsten and Dr. Reimann presented preliminary data from flammability tests conducted with CPSC's test apparatus by Dupont (sponsored principally by the American Fiber Manufacturers Association) and BASF (sponsored principally by the American Textile Manufacturers Association). In these tests, various fabrics were tested over different filling materials and under different test conditions, but generally in accordance with the method in the CPSC staff's draft small open flame standard. Non-FR fabrics generally did not meet the draft standard's acceptance criteria, but FR foams (California or U.K.) did, in some cases, lengthen the time to failure. Dr. Forsten conducted additional tests of FR fabrics but not report on these in detail. Dr. Reimann did tests on FR fabrics and reported favorable results, and also noted some non-systematic effects of FR foam fillings. Further statistical analysis of these data is pending. One or more reports on these tests will be submitted to the CPSC staff (although when they will be submitted is undetermined).

In the mattress task group meeting, Mr. Dillon presented preliminary heat release data on mattress round robin testing conducted on 4 mattress configurations by 6 laboratories; the testing program was overseen by Gordon Damant of Intercity Testing, Inc. (sponsored by SPSC). He mentioned but did not report weight loss data from these tests. He noted some interlab variability in the results, reportedly due to a number of factors relating to test conditions at the participating labs. There was some discussion of statistical methods for accounting for outliers in small data sets; the task group agreed to perform more statistical analyses (and requested help from CPSC on this issue).