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MEETING LOG

UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

1998 APR -7 A 7:50

Meeting Between: CPSC staff and representatives of Weave Corp.
Date of Meeting: February 24, 1998
Site of Meeting: Weave Corporation headquarter, Denver, PA
Meeting Topic: Upholstered Furniture Flammability
Log Entry By: Dale R. Ray, EC
Project Mgr., Upholstered Furniture
Participants: Weave: Roger L. Berkley, President
Salman Z. Chaudry, Ass't. Mgr, QC
CPSC: Dale Ray, Chuck Smith, Bob Franklin, EC;
Linda Fansler, LS; Mike Babich, EH

Summary:

Members of the CPSC staff visited the fabric manufacturing facilities of Weave Corporation to meet with company representatives on upholstery flammability issues (including potential applications of flame retardant treatments that might be used to meet a small open flame standard), and to observe the kinds of fabrics used in certain "high end" furniture. Weave generally serves furniture manufacturers whose products are relatively expensive and highly style-dependent. Weave also employs a design staff at its plant to develop computer-aided designs for new fabrics.

Mr. Berkley and Mr. Chaudry accompanied the staff on a plant tour, provided a general overview of weaving technology, and demonstrated a variety of production processes and techniques. Mr. Ray presented a brief overview of CPSC's activities in developing a draft small open flame standard that would probably encourage greater use of FR fabric treatments. The Weave officials discussed the potential effects of such a standard on the kinds of fabrics they produce. They also described the firm's research efforts with FR backcoated fabrics, and factors affecting the suitability of FR treatments (e.g., with respect to the use of different dyes, fiber contents, fabric weights, textures and weaves). Environmental and occupational requirements associated with the use of FR chemicals (typically applied by a contract finisher) were also discussed. It was agreed that further contacts by CPSC would be with either Mr. Berkley, Mr. Chaudry, or Ms. Eva Konapacki, the Assistant Plant Manager (who was unable to attend due to illness).

