

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
No firm, products of  
Products Identified  
Excepted by \_\_\_\_\_  
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# MEETING LOG

## UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

19.3 APR 20 A 10:04

**Meeting Between:** CPSC staff and members of the Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)

**Date of Meeting:** March 30, 1998

**Site of Meeting:** Greensboro Marriott Hotel, Greensboro, NC

**Meeting Topic:** Annual Flammability Committee Meeting

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

**Participants:** BIFMA: Richard Driscoll, BIFMA Executive VP;  
Randy Ruster, Herman Miller Co,  
Subcommittee Chairman; and about  
25 member company representatives  
CPSC: Dale Ray, EC

### Summary:

CPSC was invited to participate in the annual Flammability Subcommittee meeting of BIFMA, an association of commercial and contract furniture products. Most, but not all, of these firms' products are not intended for the residential market. The Subcommittee meeting was scheduled to coincide with the AFMA Flammability Workshop, held at the same location. Various furniture fire safety topics were discussed; CPSC was asked to update the BIFMA membership on CPSC standards development activities.

Mr. Ray presented a summary of the Commission's March 2, 1998 decision to defer regulatory action. He also reiterated the staff's view that most commercial and contract upholstered furniture would not be subject to the staff's draft small open flame standard. BIFMA representatives expressed their general support for CPSC's activities, and were pleased to hear that the scope of the draft standard was consistent with their recommendations regarding non-residential products.

Mr. Ray also discussed the CPSC staff's information needs relative to the upcoming public hearing on fire retardant chemical toxicity. Members of the subcommittee expressed interest in contributing some testimony, through a BIFMA representative, at the hearing; Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Ruster said they would be in contact with the staff to communicate the group's decision on providing testimony. Mr. Ray distributed



copies of the Commission's March 17, 1998 Federal Register notice announcing the public hearing, as well as copies of the preliminary FR chemical toxicity review from the October, 1997 staff briefing package. All of the BIFMA attendees also attended the March 31, 1998 AFMA Flammability Workshop, at which Mr. Ray gave a more expansive presentation on the agency's work on the upholstered furniture project.