

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Log of Meeting**

Subject: To discuss Clothes Dryer safety

Date of Meeting: July 18, 2000

Log Entry Source: Sheela Kadambi, ESEE *JK*

Meeting Location: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)
1111 19th Street, NW, Washington DC 20036

CPSC Attendees: David A. Walden,
William H. King Jr.
Linda M. Edwards
Sheela Kadambi

Non-CPSC Attendees: Wayne Morris AHAM,
Michael Wasser ASKO USA,
T. Kleczko Miele USA,
Tom Riley Maytag,
Margaret Freeston Brown & Freeston,
Stephen Wasserman UL,
Larry Wethje AHAM,
C.W. Osteen Amana Appliances,
Robert St. Louis Camco Inc.,
Brian A. Brissin GE,
Tim Hooker GE,
Joe Eroelsky Invensys Appliance Controls,
Chuck Williams UL,
Dave Modtland Frigidaire Home Products,
Fred Pauk Frigidaire,
John Gorman CSA Inc.,
Lenore Bergman UL,
Gordon Gillerman UL,
Rick Seib Whirlpool Corp,
Donald P. Grob UL,
Julie Ayres AHAM,
Dan Teich Maytag (Via Phone)

Summary of the Meeting: The CPSC staff attended this meeting per AHAM's invitation to address the issue of restricted airflow in clothes dryers during operation. CPSC staff said that while they are not being critical of the existing voluntary standards, 15,000 reported dryer related fires provides an incentive to take another look at clothes dryer standards. This included looking at installation and maintenance issues.

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K Mr. King/President

UL discussed the changes in the standard since the 1980s. Some of the changes were: the 30,000 cycle test for the centrifugal switch controlling heating element, new wire routing requirements, and simulated duct construction test condition; effective 1989. Requirements for markings to use metal exhaust duct and importance of the cleaning of the lint screen. The most recent changes effective 1996 are that all dryers undergo the Normal Temperature Tests with 25% lint screen blockage and sagging electric heating element.

The CSA International representative said that the ANSI standard does not have the seven-hour abnormal test, which is part of the UL standard.

Some of the manufacturers showed a willingness to consider sensors to detect inadequate airflow. Others showed concern about the fire related to use of fabric softener sheets in the dryer. There was an extensive discussion of spontaneous combustion of clothes due to the presence of vegetable oil residue in the clothes. AHAM representative said the improvement in clothes dryer safety needs a multiple approach, including building code improvements, eliminating vinyl "slinky" transition vent material, and working with the fabric softener and detergent (with oxidizers) manufacturers.

After discussing the data collecting process, the lack of proper airflow due to lint accumulation, and the results of long-term use of clothes dryer with restricted airflow, the following action items were suggested by AHAM and the Standards Developers:

1. AHAM will develop a straw-man proposal by October 1st for data collection, including parameters for uniform collection.
2. Proposal regarding installation that AHAM plans to make building code groups will be shared with CPSC staff for comment/support.
3. UL staff that regularly meets with code officials will help get the message out regarding proper venting.
4. AHAM will write to CPSC concerning vinyl duct materials being improperly used. AHAM will provide information regarding where sold, how marketed, and why it is inappropriate.
5. AHAM to contact detergent manufacturers regarding ingredients such as oxidizers.
6. AHAM to propose bringing attention to the phenomenon of spontaneous ignition via NFPA, video new releases, CPSC, and other outreach efforts.

In addition Don Grob from UL indicated that they would propose to conduct research to determine whether above-normal operating temperatures have an adverse effect on component failure rate (temperature ranging from ambient to set point).

It was proposed that the next meeting take place during the first two weeks of November.