



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

December 31, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Durbin, Cochran, and Collins:

Enclosed is the December status update report on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's activities to assess the health and safety impacts of drywall imported from the People's Republic of China. This report includes information about work that has taken place since the November status report was provided to the Committee.

We look forward to providing you with further updates. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (301) 504-7660 or by e-mail at cday@cpsc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Day", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher R. Day
Director
Office of Congressional Relations

cc: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Enclosure

INVESTIGATION OF IMPORTED DRYWALL STATUS UPDATE, DECEMBER 2009

I. Overview

This update describes new developments in the ongoing investigation of imported drywall and supplements the previous reports provided to the Committee. As of December 22, 2009, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (“Commission” or “CPSC”) had received 2360 incident reports related to drywall from 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. More than 90% of reports continue to be from Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia.

Highlights this month include:

- Hosted a technical videoconference about problem drywall with the Chinese government (AQSIQ), December 9, 2009.
- Participated on panel in a town hall meeting on drywall hosted by Representative Cao in New Orleans, December 14, 2009.
- Issued a *Notice of Inquiry* requesting comment on a proposal to require identifying labels for drywall pursuant to Section 14(c) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (74 Fed. Reg. 66622), December 16, 2009.
- Met with HUD staff to assist them in developing guidance for the applicability of grant programs for drywall issues.

II. Federal, State and International Coordination

The CPSC and its partner agencies have continued to meet, especially to develop guidance for identification and remediation for the problem drywall. CPSC has been working with HUD to assist that agency in developing guidance for the use of the Community Development Block Grant program for the identification and remediation of problem drywall in homes. We continue to have weekly coordination meetings with our agency partners, and are working with the Council on Environmental Quality and the Domestic Policy Council. The CPSC is also continuing its dialogue with Chinese government officials, and conducted a staff-level video teleconference to exchange technical information about the efforts of CPSC and AQSIQ to find answers about drywall. Additionally, CPSC staff presented at a drywall town hall meeting hosted by Representative Cao in New Orleans, Louisiana.

III. Progress in the Investigation

CPSC continues to investigate the chain of commerce of drywall, and continues to question firms in the U.S. and abroad about their drywall activities. CPSC also continues to investigate all reports of fire incidents related to drywall, but none have been confirmed to be related.

Analyses continue as planned and discussed in earlier reports. CPSC is committed to the release of all findings as quickly as possible, while maintaining scientific integrity. Contract work on analysis of samples is proceeding with Environmental Health and Engineering, Sandia National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.