

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE NANCY A. NORD  
ACTING CHAIRMAN  
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCTS SAFETY COMMISSION**

**BALLOT VOTE  
(NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR PORTABLE GENERATORS)**

**August 15, 2006**

Today I am voting to publish for comment a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) that would require all portable generators sold to consumers in the United States bear a specific warning label. The purpose of the proposed rule is to better warn consumers about the very real danger of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning posed by the use of a portable generator in or near a home.

The demand by consumers for portable generators has increased in recent years. Portable generators can be extremely useful machines, particularly after the loss of electricity in the wake of a storm or for some other reason. However, as the number of portable generators in use has increased, so too have the number of people who have been killed or sickened by CO poisoning from those generators. The amount of CO emitted from a portable generator can be up to several hundred times that released by a modern car's exhaust and can kill consumers in a very short period of time, especially while they sleep, as several recent, tragic incidents have demonstrated.

In addition to the proposed warning label requirement, I anticipate that the Commission will soon receive a staff package outlining other regulatory options the Commission might consider regarding portable generators. I look forward to receiving that package as well as the public's comments on this NPR, and to continuing to work with all of our stakeholders on this important issue.