

Dated: Issued in Washington, DC, on August 9, 2000.

John R. Mielke,

Acting Director.

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CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Notice of Transmittal of Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 2001 to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget

Pursuant to Section 254(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(b)), the Congressional Budget Office hereby reports that it has submitted its Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 2001 to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Office of Management and Budget.

Dan L. Crippen,

Director, Congressional Budget Office.

[FR Doc. 00-20640 Filed 8-14-00; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Proposed Collection of Information; Comment Request—Amended Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Consumer Product Safety Commission requests comments on a proposed extension of approval of a collection of information from manufacturers and importers of cellulose insulation. The collection of information is in regulations implementing the Amended Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation (16 CFR Part 1209). These regulations establish testing and recordkeeping requirements for manufacturers and importers of cellulose insulation subject to the amended interim standard. The Commission will consider all comments received in response to this notice before requesting an extension of approval of this collection of information from the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the Office of the Secretary not later than October 16, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to the Office of the Secretary,

Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814. Alternatively, comments may be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by e-mail to cpssc-os@cpssc.gov. Comments should be captioned "Cellulose Insulation."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the proposed extension of approval of the collection of information, or to obtain a copy of 16 CFR Part 1211, call or write Linda L. Glatz, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504-0416, extension 2226, or by e-mail to lglatz@cpssc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cellulose insulation is a form of thermal insulation used in houses and other residential buildings. Most cellulose insulation is manufactured by shredding and grinding used newsprint and adding fire-retardant chemicals.

In 1978, Congress passed the Emergency Interim Consumer Product Safety Standard Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-319, 92 Stat. 386). That legislation is contained in section 35 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2080). This law directed the Commission to issue an interim safety standard incorporating the provisions for flammability and corrosiveness of cellulose insulation set forth in a purchasing specification issued by the General Services Administration (GSA). The law provided further that the interim safety standard should be amended to incorporate the requirements for flammability and corrosiveness of cellulose insulation in each revision to the GSA purchasing specification.

In 1978, the Commission issued the Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation in accordance with section 35 of the CPSA. In 1979, the Commission amended that standard to incorporate the latest revision of the GSA purchasing specification. The Amended Interim Safety Standard for Cellulose Insulation is codified at 16 CFR Part 1209.

The amended interim standard contains performance tests to assure that cellulose insulation will resist ignition from sustained heat sources, such as smoldering cigarettes or recessed light fixtures, and from small open-flame sources, such as matches or candles. The standard also contains tests to assure that cellulose insulation will not be corrosive to copper, aluminum, or steel if exposed to water.

Certification regulations implementing the standard require manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of cellulose insulation subject to the standard to perform tests to demonstrate that those products meet the requirements of the standard, and to maintain records of those tests. The certification regulations are codified at 16 CFR Part 1209, Subpart B.

The Commission uses the information compiled and maintained by manufacturers, importers, and private labelers of cellulose insulation subject to the standard to help protect the public from risks of injury or death associated with fires involving cellulose insulation. More specifically, this information helps the Commission determine whether cellulose insulation subject to the standard complies with all applicable requirements. The Commission also uses this information to obtain corrective actions if cellulose insulation fails to comply with the standard in a manner that creates a substantial risk of injury to the public.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the collection of information in the certification regulations under control number 3041-0022. OMB's most recent extension of approval will expire on January 31, 2001. The Commission now proposes to request an extension of approval without change for the collection of information in the certification regulations.

A. Estimated Burden

The Commission staff estimates that not more than 45 firms manufacture or import cellulose insulation subject to the amended interim standard. The Commission staff estimates that the certification regulations will impose an average annual burden of about 1,320 hours on each of those firms. That burden will result from conducting the testing required by the regulations and maintaining records of the results of that testing. The total annual burden imposed by the regulations on manufacturers and importers of cellulose insulation is approximately 59,400 hours.

The hourly wage for the testing and recordkeeping required to conduct the testing and maintain records required by the regulations is about \$13.50, for an estimated annual cost to the industry of no more than \$802,000.

B. Request for Comments

The Commission solicits written comments from all interested persons about the proposed collection of information. The Commission

specifically solicits information relevant to the following topics:

- Whether the collection of information described above is necessary for the proper performance of the Commission's functions, including whether the information would have practical utility;
- Whether the estimated burden of the proposed collection of information is accurate;
- Whether the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected could be enhanced; and
- Whether the burden imposed by the collection of information could be minimized by use of automated, electronic or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology.

Dated: August 9, 2000.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 00-20612 Filed 8-14-00; 8:45 am]

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[CPSC Docket No. 00-C0011]

Royal Sovereign Corp., a corporation, Provisional Acceptance of a Settlement Agreement and Order

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A Settlement Agreement provisionally accepted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission was inadvertently published on August 9, 2000 (pages 48680-48682) separate from a preamble notice about the agreement published on August 8, 2000 (page 48488). This notice accurately publishes the Settlement Agreement and preamble together and sets the period for comment on the agreement.

It is the policy of the Commission to publish settlements which it provisionally accepts under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act in the **Federal Register** in accordance with the terms of 16 CFR 1118.20(e). Published below is a provisionally-accepted Settlement Agreement with Royal Sovereign Corp., a corporation, containing a civil penalty of \$20,000.

DATES: Any interested person may ask the Commission not to accept this agreement or otherwise comment on its contents by filing a written request with the Office of the Secretary by August 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to comment on this Settlement Agreement should send written comments to the Comment 00-C0011, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margaret H. Plank, Trial Attorney, Office of Compliance and Enforcement, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-0626, 1450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the Agreement and Order appears below.

Dated: August 10, 2000.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary.

Settlement Agreement and Order

1. This Settlement Agreement and Order between Royal Sovereign Corporation ("Royal Sovereign"), a New Jersey corporation, and the staff of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission ("the CPSC"), pursuant to 16 CFR 1118.20 of the Commission's Procedures for Investigations, Inspections, and Inquiries under the Consumer Product Safety Act ("CPSA"), reflects a compromise resolution of the matter described herein, entered without a hearing or determination of issues of law and fact.

I. The Parties

2. The staff is the staff of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, an independent federal regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 2051-2084.

3. Royal Sovereign is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Its principal corporate offices are located at 100 West Sheffield Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631. Royal Sovereign is an importer and distributor of small electronic appliances, including portable ceramic heaters.

II. Staff Allegations

4. Section 15(b) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. 2064(b) requires a manufacturer of a consumer product who, *inter alia*, obtains information that reasonably supports the conclusion that the product contains a defect which could create a substantial product hazard or creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death, to immediately inform the Commission of the defect or risk.

5. Between 1992 and 1996, Royal Sovereign imported and distributed within the United States approximately 39,300 model RST1200 oscillating ceramic portable heaters ("RST 1200

heaters"). The portable heaters are "consumer products" and Royal Sovereign is a "distributor" of "consumer products" that are "distributed in commerce" as those terms are defined in sections 3(a)(1), (4), (11) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. 2052(a)(1), (4), (11).

6. The RST 1200 heaters are defective because the mechanism that rotates the heater side-to-side can wear through the insulation of electrical wiring inside the heater's base. In addition, some of the connections between the electrical wires and other components inside the heater are faulty. Either of these conditions can cause a fire.

7. Between 1994 and 1997, Royal Sovereign received at least thirteen reports of fires involving RST 1200 heaters. The fires resulted in property damage claims in excess of \$70,000.

8. On October 24, 1995, CPSC field investigator William Robinson inspected the facilities of Royal Sovereign, and interviewed firm officials, seeking information about a fire involving an RST 1200 heater that had been reported to the Commission by the consumer. Mr. Robinson shared the staff's engineering evaluation of the unit involved in the fire, which concluded that faulty crimp connections may have led to arcing and overheating within the unit that caused ignition of the plastic housing. Firm officials informed Mr. Robinson at that time that they believed the RST 1200 heater involved in the fire had been tampered with, and that the faulty crimps were not of Royal Sovereign's manufacture.

9. Royal Sovereign also informed Mr. Robinson on October 24, 1995, that Royal Sovereign had received reports of two additional fires involving RST 1200 heaters. Firm officials states that one of those fires resulted from the heater being placed too close to combustibles, and that they believed the other fire had been deliberately set. Mr. Robinson was told that the other complaints the firm had received concerning the RST 1200 related to mechanical failures or product dissatisfaction.

10. At the conclusion of his inspection, Mr. Robinson left with Royal Sovereign copies of the CPSC statutes and regulations setting forth a distributor's obligations to report potential safety hazards to the Commission.

11. In 1996, Royal Sovereign undertook an "upgrade" program, pursuant to which it contacted those consumers of RST 1200 heaters from whom the firm had received warranty cards and informed them that they could return their heaters for "reconfiguration to 1996 standards."