

**GUIDELINES FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE
AND ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATION
AMONG**

**THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY
OF JAPAN**

AND

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND EVALUATION
OF JAPAN**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission of the United States of America (CPSC), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI), and the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation of Japan (NITE), hereinafter referred to as the "Participants,"

- **RECOGNIZING** that the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the United States of America (CPSC) is an independent federal regulatory agency formed to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products. It is charged with implementation of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), the U.S. Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA), the U.S. Flammable Fabrics Act (FFA), the U.S. Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) and the U.S. Refrigerator Safety Act (RSA); and
- **RECOGNIZING** that the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) is the regulatory authority responsible for the safety of consumer products in Japan. It is responsible for the implementation of the Japanese Consumer Products Safety Law, the Japanese Electrical Appliance and Material Safety Law, the Japanese Gas Utility Industry Law, and the Japanese Law Concerning the Securing of Safety and Optimization of Transaction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas; and

- **RECOGNIZING** that the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation of Japan (NITE) is an incorporated Administrative Agency established by law responsible for promoting consumer product safety awareness and cooperating closely with the METI to secure product safety in Japan. The NITE is responsible for collecting information about accidents associated with consumer products and implementing consumer product safety fact-finding and analysis and providing relevant safety information to the public; and
- **RECOGNIZING** that the laws of both countries may contain certain restrictions on information disclosure, and that nothing in these Guidelines suggests that the Participants should provide information if such information is prohibited by their respective laws, other applicable regulations or enforcement policies;

HAVE SHARED THE FOLLOWING VIEWS:

(1) It is understood that any and all activities under these Guidelines are subject to the availability of funds, resources, and the laws governing the respective Participants, and that on that basis the Participants intend to:

- Exchange scientific, technical, and regulatory information to help ensure the safety of consumer products;
- Exchange information on emerging issues of significant health and safety relevance within their scope of authority. Information regarding products, manufacturers and importers may be exchanged if necessary and if permitted under the laws and regulations applicable in the United States and Japan;
- Exchange information on standardization activities;
- Exchange general information on market enforcement activities;
- Exchange information on risks identified and measures taken with respect to products originating from the United States and Japan;
- Exchange information in case of major withdrawal/recall operations of mutual interest;
- Exchange information on serious incidents associated with consumer products, risk assessment and product testing;
- Develop training programs for government officials and others dealing with the subject of consumer product safety; and
- Exchange officials, experts and professionals in the areas of consumer product safety to carry out specific programs of mutual cooperation.

(2) The Participants intend to provide resources from within their respective countries for visits and exchange programs. Each Participant expects to cover its own costs, including, but not limited to, transportation for international travel, transportation for travel between cities, and hotel accommodations.

(3) To derive maximum benefit from the present Guidelines, the Participants hope to meet periodically through delegations at the appropriate level. These meetings and delegations should help to fulfill the mutually determined programs and facilitate planning the future course of action.

(4) Cooperation under these Guidelines is expected to begin on the date of the signature by the Participants and to continue initially for a period of one year and thereafter from year to year as the Participants see fit. Cooperation under these Guidelines may be terminated by any of the Participants at any time; however, a Participant should endeavour to provide the other Participants at least 30 days written notice before ending its cooperation. The CPSC contact is the Director, Office of International Programs and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Room 724, Bethesda, MD, 20814, U.S.A. The e-mail address is international@cpsc.gov.

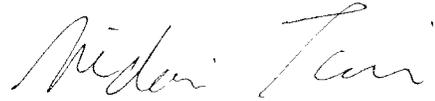
The METI contact is the Deputy Director, Product Safety Division, Consumers Affairs Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8901 Japan. The e-mail address is hosaka-akira@meti.go.jp.

The NITE contact is the Senior Chief for Product Safety Planning Division, Life and Welfare Technology Center, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation, 4-1-67, Otemae, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka 540-0008 Japan. The e-mail address is arai-katsumi-chan@nite.go.jp.

Signed at Brussels, Belgium on this 29 day of November 2006 in the English language.



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ACTING CHAIRMAN
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