

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CPSC
10/21/05
EXEMPTED BY
RULE #1630
V. 1

SUBJECT: Methenamine Tablets for Carpet and Rug Flammability Standard

DATE OF MEETING: July 15, 2003

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: September 9, 2005

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESFS

LOCATION: CPSC Headquarters

CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list of attendees.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Ken McIntosh, Technical Director of the Carpet and Rug Institute, requested the meeting to discuss the evaluation of alternative methenamine tablets used in 16 CFR 1630 and 1631 flammability tests of carpet. He indicated that the existing standard has served the industry well and that it is in their best interest to see it maintained. Mohawk and Shaw represent approximately 60% of the market. Since the early 1980's, the industry has consolidated from about 300 manufacturers to 20, with the top three producing approximately 74% of the market. Imported products from China, including broadloom carpet, are increasing. The cost of methenamine test tablets has increased from \$10-12/100 tablets 10 years ago to a maximum of \$175/100.

Eli Lilly ceased production of the methenamine tablets specified in the 16 CFR 1630 and 1631 carpet flammability standards. Current sources of methenamine tablets include Vesta Pharmaceuticals, Vintage Pharmaceuticals (marketed by Qualitest Pharmaceuticals), and Hill (United Kingdom) that was, but is no longer, re-labeling the Vesta product. Shaw Industries experienced differing test results with one of their carpet styles, using old Lilly tablets and tablets currently available. Because of this, the industry has begun to study various characteristics of current tablets, including weight, burn time, IR temperature profiles, rates of heat release, and hardness. In one case, Qualitest tablets were found broken in the bottle (50%) with others breaking later. This was attributed to the tablet having a domed top. The problem has since been corrected with a flat top tablet.

The CRI representatives urged CPSC staff to clearly specify the tablets that should be used and the methods for determining compliance so that the industry can follow-up. The staff agreed to provide CRI with early National Bureau of Standards reports documenting the various characteristics of early Eli Lilly tablets. CPSC laboratory tests are being planned to help resolve this issue.

