

Cleared
3/30/94

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Forum on Head Protection in Recreational Sports sponsored by Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center

DATE OF MEETING: February 18, 1994 **PLACE:** The Bellevue Hotel, Washington, D.C.

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Scott Heh, ESME *SH*

DATE OF ENTRY: March 21, 1994

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Scott Heh-ESME, Suad Nakamura-HSPS

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Available upon receipt of meeting proceedings.

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The purpose of the Forum was to examine the feasibility of developing a helmet that would be appropriate to use for several different sports and recreational activities. A presentation on Head Injury Morbidity and Mortality was given by Susan Baker from The Johns Hopkins University Injury Prevention Center. Two presentations were given from the retailer perspective by representatives from Recreational Equipment, Inc. and Target Stores.

The participants then divided into two work groups, Standards/Bioengineering and Marketing/Manufacturing. These groups identified advantages, disadvantages, and barriers associated with developing a multi-activity helmet.

The two work groups met as a whole again in the afternoon to report on their progress. The advantage to the consumer to purchase one helmet and have confidence that it will provide protection for a variety of activities was emphasized. Potential activities that the proposed helmet would be used for are bicycling, skateboarding, roller skating, equestrian, playground play, and ice skating. The target user age range for the helmet would be 5 to 12-year olds. Many manufacturers and voluntary standard organization representatives discussed challenges associated with this task. A helmet designed to adequately protect for all the activities may not provide the greatest protection possible for any one activity. Certain performance trade-offs are likely. A representative from the Snell Memorial Foundation stated that Snell will soon publish a standard for multi-activity helmets. Members from the ASTM Subcommittee on Protective Headgear stated that they would bring this issue up for discussion at their next meeting.

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The meeting participants came to general agreement that the potential injury reduction benefits justify continued support for development of a multi-activity helmet. The proceedings of this meeting are to be distributed to appropriate agencies (CPSC included) and medical groups to solicit support for this effort.

cc: John Preston, ESME
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