CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

Log of Meeting

Subject: Door alarms used to restrict children's access to residential swimming pools

Date of Meeting: May 26, 1994 Place: CPSC Headquarters Bethesda, MD

Log Entry Source: Jacqueline Elder, EXHR

Date of Entry: June 6, 1994

Commission Attendees: Jacqueline Elder, EXHR
Elizabeth Leland, EC
Stephen Lemberg, OGC

Non-Commission Attendees: Joel W. Caesar, Northeast Spa & Pool Association
Martin J. Neville, Attorney
Mary Martha McNamara, Attorney

Summary of Meeting:

Mr. Caesar requested the meeting to discuss issues related to the availability of door alarms that meet the CPSC staff's recommendations for residential swimming pool barriers. The staff's recommendations have been adopted in the model building code administered by the Building Officials and Code Administrators, International (BOCA). The BOCA code is currently being enforced in several areas covered by Mr. Caesar's organization. Mr. Caesar noted that he knows of one door alarm that he believes meets the code requirements. Local code officials, however, are refusing to approve that alarm since it has a 7-second delay and the code requirements, based on the CPSC staff's recommendations, state that it should sound "immediately."

Ms. Elder noted that CPSC staff has been told that security companies can supply "hard-wired" alarms with features that meet the staff's recommendations. In addition, staff was able to put together an alarm that met the recommendations from components purchased at a retail electronics store. Ms. Elder also noted that staff has been told about several alarms which may meet the recommendations. She emphasized that these alarms have not been tested by CPSC and that they are not endorsed by CPSC. Ms. Elder agreed to provide Mr. Caesar with a list of these alarms so that he could follow-up with the individual companies to determine the alarms' features.

Mr. Caesar agreed to contact the company that makes the alarm with the 7-second delay to determine the rationale for the delay and to determine if any studies have been conducted related to the delay and to the specific time for the delay. CPSC staff agreed to review the information Mr. Caesar obtains and follow-up as appropriate.