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2/26/96 ✓

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting with Representatives from Fisher-Price to Discuss
Toddler Beds and Warning Labels

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 1996

PLACE: East West Towers
Bethesda, MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES *gpf*

DATE OF ENTRY: February 20, 1996

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Andrew Stadnik, AED, ES
John Preston, ES
Terri Rogers, CCA
Kate Sedney, ESHF

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Lindsay Harris, Fisher-Price
Kitty Pilarz, Fisher-Price
Maureen Sislo, Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was to: a) discuss a revision to the recently published ASTM standard for toddler beds, and b) discuss guidelines for warning labels on juvenile products.

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Pilarz had forwarded a copy of a letter she had sent to the chairman of the ASTM toddler bed subcommittee containing: 1) a proposed revision to the requirements addressing entrapment in bed end structures and 2) a new requirement and test to prevent a concentrated load from deflecting the mattress below the mattress support system and creating an entrapment hazard.

The proposal addressing Item 1 required openings in the end structures to meet the current requirements using two test probes (wedge block in Fig. 1 of standard and 9 inch diameter sphere) when either a 4 inch minimum thickness mattress is on the bed or when a 7 inch maximum thickness mattress is on the bed.

In discussion on this proposal, CPSC staff suggested that the entrapment test might be more stringent if it was conducted first with no mattress on the bed and repeated with the maximum thickness mattress on the bed. A review of past incidents had revealed several cases in which children had removed the mattress. The Fisher-Price representatives stated that the new standard requires a means on the bed to prevent dislodgement of the mattress by children. Therefore, the test without a mattress is not necessary. In further discussion on this issue, CPSC staff stated that they would like to examine toddler beds in juvenile products stores before deciding how the end structure entrapment test should be conducted. ✓

There was no disagreement on the proposed Item 2 that addresses displacement of the mattress through openings between bars of the mattress support system.

CPSC staff stated that they would review recent incidents associated with entrapment in toddler bed structures to assess whether any would not be addressed by the Fisher-Price proposal.

In a discussion on warning labels for juvenile products, Ms. Pilarz noted that she and several others had volunteered at an October 1995 meeting of the ASTM crib subcommittee to develop guidelines to make warning labels more effective and more consistent from product to product. She said she was opposed to requiring that warning labels should follow the ANSI Z535.4 standard for Product Safety Signs and Symbols in its entirety. However, there were a number of items in that standard that were desirable for warnings on juvenile products. For example, she said that there should be a signal word, either WARNING or CAUTION, together with the statement of the hazard, how the hazard can be avoided, and the consequences of ignoring the hazard. She also said that she believed that warnings should contrast with the color of the background on which they are printed. Finally, she said that she did not advocate that ASTM standards for juvenile products should dictate the precise language wording for a warning label unless the wording had been tested for its effectiveness.

CPSC staff stated that they would review these suggestions for warning labels and be prepared to discuss them during the upcoming ASTM Juvenile Products Subcommittee meetings in March 1996.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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