

LOG OF MEETING

CPSA 6 11/13/96 Cleared
11/22/96
Products Identified
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SUBJECT: Gas Connectors

DATE: November 13, 1996

PLACE: Consumer Product Safety Commission
Room 715

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Lawrence L. Hershman
Special Assistant to the Chairman

MEETING REQUESTED BY: CPSC Staff

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC) REPRESENTATIVES:

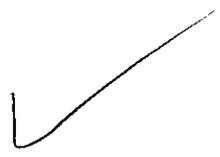
Ronald L. Medford, Assistant Executive Director, Office
of Hazard Identification & Reduction
Lawrence L. Hershman, Office of Compliance
Donald Switzer, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES:

Kevin Belford, General Counsel, American Gas
Association (AGA)
Lisa Bontempo, Director, Legislative Affairs,
National Propane Gas Association (NPGA)
Joseph M. Mattingly, Director of Government Affairs and
General Counsel, Gas Appliance Manufacturers
Association, Inc. (GAMA)
Wayne E. Morris, Technical Director, Regulatory
Affairs, Association of Home Appliance
Manufacturers (AHAM)
James A. Ranfone, Director, Codes, Standards and
Technical Support, American Gas Association (AGA)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Sam Cristy, Product Safety Letter



SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr. Medford welcomed the attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting -- to progress toward an effective notice campaign to warn consumers of the dangers of certain gas connectors.

The attendees discussed a draft one-page notice that CPSC staff had sent them prior to the meeting. The attendees discussed the wording to use to describe the connectors that consumers should have replaced. Although not all uncoated brass connectors have brazed joints, due to the difficulty of differentiating whether an uncoated brass connector is brazed or not, it was agreed that the simplest, most effective message to communicate would be to target all uncoated brass connectors. The attendees also discussed how to describe the age of target connectors, i.e., whether they were at least 10 or 20 years old.

Mr. Ranfone agreed that a cover letter from AGA to member utilities accompanying the one-page notice would suggest options for assisting consumers in setting up inspections. For example, since so few utilities provide non-emergency service, they might provide a list of recommended servicers.

The AGA and GAMA representatives agreed to submit written requests to the Commission for permission to use the CPSC logo on the one-page notice. Upon Mr. Morris' suggestion, CPSC staff agreed to enlist the support of retailers, servicers and other potentially helpful parties. Mr. Medford said that CPSC would draft and send to the attendees a notice distribution plan. Mr. Mattingly agreed to check with GAMA members about a GAMA-produced and financed video news release.