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LOG OF MEETING

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SUBJECT: National Association of State Fire Marshals Science and Technology Advisory Group

DATE OF MEETING: January 22, 1998

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 5, 1998

PERSON SUBMITTING LOG: James F. Hoebel, Engineering Sciences

LOCATION: Phoenix Park Hotel, Washington, DC

CPSC ATTENDEES: see attached minutes

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: see attached minutes

SUMMARY OF MEETING: see attached minutes



**National Association of State Fire Marshals
Science and Technology Advisory Group
Minutes, Meeting of January 22, 1998
Washington, DC**

In attendance:

STAG Members and Staff:

Gary Ter Haar, Chairman, Albemarle Corporation
Don Bliss, STAG Coordinator, New Hampshire State Fire Marshals
Gordon Damant, Inter-City Testing and Consulting
Bea Harwood, Consumer Product Safety Commission, retired
Jim Hoebel, Consumer Product Safety Commission
Jim Milke, University of Maryland
H.J. Roux, Roux International, Inc.
Jack Watts, Fire Safety Institute
Frank McGarry, NASFM Project Manager
Karen Suhr, NASFM Governmental Relations

Guests:

William H. King, Jr., U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
William Monroe, Environmental Protection Agency
Andrew Stadnik, P.E., U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Phillip Wakelyn, National Cotton Council
Joe Ziolkowski, Upholstered Furniture Action Council

Observers:

Patty Adair, National Cotton Council
Christine Eames, Product Safety Letter
Ed Knight, Robson Lapina, Inc.
Wayne Morris, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Kay Villa, American Textile Manufacturers Association

Because the agenda was so crowded, Chairman Ter Haar requested that future STAG meetings be limited to no more than two presentations from outsiders.

The STAG discussed and agreed on the following during the open portion of the meeting:

Unattended home appliance fires

- The Consumer Product Safety Commission suggested several ways in which NASFM could support the CPSC in addressing fires involving home appliances: participate in UL Plastics Flammability Ad Hoc Group; survey members for written documentation of

incidents involving specific products being looked at in CPSC home appliance fire related activities; and support new technology "Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters" (AFCIs) that respond to appliance malfunctions that result in arcing and lead to fire.

- Gary Ter Haar and Frank McGarry were to coordinate on attending a February 11 meeting of UL's Ad Hoc Committee on Flammability of Thermoplastic Appliance Enclosures (note: McGarry will attend for NASFM, and Ter Haar is sending a senior member of his staff).
- Jack Watts will take lead on learning more about AFCIs. In 1999, AFCI technology will be up for inclusion in the National Electrical Code, but faces stiff opposition from certain trade associations such as the home builders. There is concern that the issue can get referred back to committee from the floor of an NFPA meeting, if proponents are not in attendance to protect the position.

EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy program on replacements for ozone-depleting substances

- Based on the presentation by the EPA's William Monroe, apparently EPA does not have oversight over the flammability of alternatives to ozone-depleting substances. The user of a particular alternative must make the determination on whether to use the alternative based on the intended use and the inherent flammability of the substance.

Statistical methodologies

- Bea Harwood submitted a suggested outline for a proposed workshop to be given at the NASFM Annual Meeting in June. Karen Suhr will convey the outline to the NASFM Executive Committee when it meets at the end of February to construct the agenda for the meeting.

Testing laboratory independence

- Due to time constraints, discussion on this issue was deferred until the next meeting of the STAG. However, several STAG members suggested that the NASFM Board should be more proactive in seeking participation on the development of UL standards. At the STAG's suggestion, NASFM will invite UL President Tom Castino to attend the next STAG meeting to discuss management issues related to the standards process and duplication of standards.

Participation of observers:

- The observer guidelines will be distributed to observers, not announced, at every STAG meeting, because observers tend to come and go throughout the course of the meeting.

- Observers are welcome to any liquid refreshments that are available at the meeting, but food is reserved for STAG members and invited guests only.

Next meeting of STAG

- The next meeting will take place tentatively on Tuesday, April 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Washington, D.C. Karen Suhr will contact STAG members to either confirm the tentative date or to set a new date.
- Also, the STAG will plan to meet during the NASFM Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 25, in Denver.