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**LOG OF MEETING** CPSC/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES: 29**  
1998 NOV 5

**SUBJECT:** Garage Door Safety

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 3, 1998

**PLACE:** East West Towers  
Room 714  
Bethesda, MD

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** John Murphy, ESME

**DATE OF ENTRY:** April 14, 1998

**COMMISSION ATTENDERS:**

- Ronald Medford, EXHR
- Alan Schoem, EXC
- Renaë Rauchschalbe, EXC
- George Rutherford, EHHA
- Arthur McDonald, EHDS
- Warren Prunella, ECON
- Andrew Stadnik, ES
- John Murphy, ESME
- Kate Sedney, ESHF

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDERS:**

- Geoffrey Foreman, Wayne-Dalton
- Larry Martin, Martin Door Manufacturing
- Howard Burns, Windsor Doors
- Sally Greenberg, Consumers Union
- Steve Miller, Raynor Garage Door
- Melinda Sullivan, Clopay
- Karen Austin, Overhead Door
- Naomi Angel, McBride, Baker & Coles
- John Addington, Executive Director, DASMA
- Richard A Brenner, Amarr Garage Doors
- Peter Winik, Latham & Watkins

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

The meeting convened at 10:00 AM. Mr. Medford (CPSC) welcomed the participants and thanked them for coming. The meeting was requested by the CPSC staff to encourage the industry to revise the voluntary standard for sectional garage doors, known as ANSI/DASMA 102, to reduce the number of finger injuries, including amputations and fractures caused when consumers get their hands caught between the sections of garage doors. This hazard involves finger injuries that occur when a consumer gets one or more fingers caught in the joint that is created between garage door sections as the sections rotate to the vertical position near the top of the door.



George Rutherford (CPSC) presented an analysis of the 1996 National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) injury data. In 1996 there were an estimated 8,500 finger injuries associated with garage doors, treated in hospital emergency rooms. There were over 1,000 spring related injuries treated in 1996.

John Murphy (CPSC) discussed CPSC staff proposals to the voluntary standard that are intended to reduce the previously mentioned injuries. The proposal would require that a sectional door have a pinch proof joint or that the door must have handles. A pinch proof joint would limit the gap between sections as the door moves from the horizontal position to the vertical. The gap should be less than 0.35 inch (9 mm). These provisions are based on anthropometric data. Doors without pinch proof joints should have handles on the lower section, and the center section on both the inside and the outside surfaces of the door. The CPSC staff also asked the industry to consider requiring that hardware subject to spring tension be designed so that it cannot be removed without first removing the spring tension or that it be attached with tamper resistant fasteners that require special tools to remove.

Mr. John Addington (DASMA) provided some background on an information & education campaign created by the Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association, International to inform consumers about the dangers of garage doors. The campaign includes a video news release, brochures, and an internet web site. Mr. Medford indicated that the CPSC would not consider an I&E campaign without voluntary standard action to be an adequate remedy to the problem. DASMA is planning to hold a meeting of its technical committee in early June. Mr. Medford indicated that the CPSC staff was interested in attending the meeting.

Mr. Medford asked how many manufacturers present at the meeting manufacture doors that are designed to resist finger pinch between section joints. Larry Martin (Martin Door Manufacturing) and Geoffrey Foreman (Wayne-Dalton) both represent companies that manufacture doors with pinch resistant features. Melinda Sullivan (Clipay Building Products) and Karen Austin (Overhead Door) indicated that their companies are about to introduce a line of garage doors with pinch resistant features.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

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