

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

2-36-79-8

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SECRETARY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Discussion of Possible Technological Solutions to the Water Heater Flammable Vapor Ignition Issue

PLACE: CPSC Headquarters, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD

MEETING DATE: November 20, 1997

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: March 19, 1998

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald W. Switzer ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

J.P. Langmead Consultant to the Water Heater Joint Development Consortium

MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Langmead requested this meeting to discuss the status of efforts by the Water Heater Industry Joint Development Consortium to develop technological solutions to the hazard posed by gas-fired water heaters igniting flammable vapors in the home. The meeting was closed to the public because the material discussed was confidential.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SHARON GAMACHE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR HIGH-RISK OUTREACH, ANDREW MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRAUMA FOUNDATION AT THE SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL, ANTHONY O'NEILL, VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, NFPA AND COMMISSIONER MOORE

DATE OF MEETING: NOVEMBER 20, 1997

PLACE OF MEETING: CPSC HEADQUARTERS/ROOM 725

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: PAMELA L. WELLER

DATE OF ENTRY: NOVEMBER 20, 1997

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

COMMISSIONER THOMAS H. MOORE
PAMELA L. WELLER, COUNSELOR TO COMMISSIONER MOORE
MICHAEL GOUGISHA, COUNSELOR TO COMMISSIONER MOORE
MARGARET NEILY, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

SHARON GAMACHE
ANDREW MCGUIRE
ANTHONY O'NEILL

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr. O'Neill told the Commissioner that NFPA was forming a Children's Safe Sleepwear Coalition. Its purpose was to have CPSC revisit the children's sleepwear issue. They were also pledged to monitor burn incidents.

The Commissioner indicated that he was glad to hear they would be doing monitoring and that our staff would be doing that as well.

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Mr. O'Neill also indicated a concern about the sleepwear industry renegeing on their promise to mount an information and education campaign. The Commissioner indicated that he hoped this was not the case and hoped the industry would follow through on the campaign.

Mr. McGuire questioned whether garments worn by children will really be tight fitting given the use of hand-me-downs and parents buying larger sizes so children can wear them longer. He also questioned the usefulness of hang tags and other educational efforts in changing buying patterns.

Mr. O'Neill said the Coalition had visited with the Congressional Fire Caucus to express their concerns about the sleepwear amendments. He also stated that a press conference was going to be held in February to kick off their national campaign.

Mr. O'Neill gave out copies of an article entitled "Children's Sleepwear: Relaxation of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Flammability Standards" printed in the September/October 1997 issue of the Journal of Burn Case and Rehabilitation (contact John O. Kucan, M.D., SIU School of Medicine, Institute for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, 747 No. Rutledge Street, Springfield, Illinois 62794, for information on how to obtain a copy of this article) on the sleepwear issue.

Commissioner Moore said he wouldn't hesitate to revisit the sleepwear issue if the data existed to indicate such was necessary. He said he welcomed NFPA's interest in this area.

Mr. O'Neill indicated there was confusion as to the current state of the sleepwear regulations. Ms. Neily stated that sleepwear could be made to comply with the old flammability standards, or be made in cotton if it met the tight-fitting requirements of the amendments which went into effect last January. And, until June of 1998, long-underwear garments which are the subject of an agency stay of enforcement, could still be marketed, as long as they were marketed as underwear and not sleepwear.

The NFPA representatives thanked the Commissioner for his time on this matter.