

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
12/15/98  
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Products Identified  
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Comments Processed

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Carbon Monoxide Alarms  
DATE: November 24, 1998  
LOCATION: CPSC, East-West Towers, Room 714  
LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Elizabeth W. Leland *ewl*  
LOG ENTRY DATE: December 15, 1998

1998 DEC 15 P 2:49  
CPSC/OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

ATTENDEES:

CPSC:  
Christopher J. Brown, LS  
Harleigh Ewell, OGC  
Sandy Inkster, EHHS  
Ron Jordan, ES  
Elizabeth Leland, EC  
Marcia Robins, EC  
Don Switzer, ES

NON-CPSC  
Irwin Billick, WEC Consulting  
Paul Clifford, Mosaic Industries, Inc.  
Bowman Cox, Product Safety Letter  
Steve Wiersma, Gas Research Institute  
Ted Williams, American Gas Association

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The meeting was requested by Mr. Wiersma, for the purpose of presenting results of the Gas Research Institute's (GRI's) latest series of CO alarm testing and research. The information provided at the meeting included: an analysis of emergency response calls data; survey data; and results of performance testing of "bought-back" CO alarms and of new CO alarms commercially available on the market.

The emergency response call data described information gathered by gas utilities when they responded to CO alarm calls from consumers. Data gathered during the last four heating seasons were presented. Information on CO levels measured during the emergency response calls was provided and was categorized by age of the alarm, types of sensor, alarm model, and proportion of total activations.

Data from a four-city (Atlanta, Brooklyn, Oklahoma City, and Toronto) survey of homeowners with installed CO alarms also were included, as was information from a survey of 838 households in Fairfax, Virginia. The survey information included: the age and brand of installed alarms; the number of alarm activations in the residence in the past year; the activation rate of the alarms; and residents' actions following alarm activations.

GRI, through Mosaic Industries, Inc., conducted a series of performance tests on nine brands of commercially available CO alarms and on "bought-back" alarms. Information on performance of CO alarms relative to UL 2034 criteria was presented, as was information on Mosaic Industries' findings of out-of-box performance. Results of tests concerning accuracy of digital displays were presented, as were results of testing



with interference gases, and testing at low relative humidities. Time-to-alarm test results for the UL 2034 criteria also were provided.

A final report containing the results of the above tests will be available from the Gas Research Institute in December 1998. Specific information which was discussed at this meeting can be requested from Steve Wiersma at the Gas Research Institute at 773-399-8100.