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CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

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FEB 28 1975

Mr. Dick Glass
Executive Vice President
National Electronic Service Dealers
Association
1715 Expo Lane
Indianapolis, Indiana 46224

Dear Mr. Glass:

Your letter of December 18, 1974 to Mr. Dennis Treitch, a staff member of the Commission's Office of Product Defect Identification, was forwarded to this office for reply because it raises a question of Commission jurisdiction over the servicing and repair of television receivers.

In that letter you describe the practices of certain TV repair-service companies and consumers who install improperly-sized or substitute fuses. You indicate that this practice can defeat the fusing devices in TV sets and may, consequently, lead to TV fires, and ask what might be done to eliminate such practices.

The Commission's jurisdiction is over consumer products, as such, in their manufacture and distribution in commerce. Manufacturers, importers, distributors, private labelers, and retailers all have obligations under the Consumer Product Safety Act to market goods which are free from safety hazards and which conform to any applicable consumer product safety rule. The Act places no obligations on those who are solely in the repair or service business. Therefore, aside from encouraging the safe repair of TVs, the Commission, at the present time, does not require such businesses to service or repair TVs in a certain way.

Nevertheless, we would like to call your attention to section 7(a) of the Act, a copy of which is enclosed. Section 7 deals with the promulgation of consumer product safety standards. Standards may include requirements as to performance, contents, design, construction, finish or packaging of a consumer product. In addition, section 7(a)(2) states that a standard may include requirements that a consumer product be marked with clear and adequate warnings or instructions.

For your further information, we also enclose a copy of a Notice beginning the process of developing mandatory safety standards for TVs that will appear in the Federal Register in the next few days. The Notice requests persons or groups to submit existing standards or offer to develop new standards, for possible adoption by the Commission, addressed to certain hazards associated with TVS.

The Commission encourages all interested persons to take part in the proceedings leading to issuance of consumer product safety standards. If an offeror is selected, standards development activities by the selected offeror will be open to the public and participation by the public can take varying forms. Individuals may volunteer their services to an offeror as participants; observers may attend meetings of the standards development group or its subcommittees or written materials of a substantive nature may be submitted to an offeror with a request that they be considered during the development process.

The information you have on TV safety may be of interest to the selected offeror when the matter of instructive labeling requirements for TVs is studied. Your name is being placed on the mailing list to receive copies of the Commission's public calendar. The calendar will keep you informed as to the selection of the offeror and the dates of the offeror's meetings should you wish to take part in the standards development process.

The Commission appreciates your interest.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Brown
General Counsel

Enclosures

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