

**MEETING LOG**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting Summary - Meeting with Underwriters' Laboratories Representatives

**PLACE:** CPSC Offices, Room. 702, Bethesda, MD

**MEETING DATE:** April 4, 1996 at 8:00 am

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Andrew G. Stadnik, AED, ES {signed by AGS 4/10/96}

**ENTRY DATE:** April 9, 1996

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Ronald L. Medford, EXHR  
David Schmeltzer, CE  
Andrew G. Stadnik, ES

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

James Beyries, Underwriters' Laboratories  
David Haataja, Underwriters' Laboratories  
Maureen Sislo, Product Safety Letter  
Joan Sterling, Inchcape Testing Services

**MEETING MINUTES:** The items presented here were discussed during the open part of the meeting. A brief closed session was held between UL and CPSC to discuss certain compliance issues that are not included herein.

Jim Beyries of Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) began the meeting indicating the items they wished to discuss with CPSC management. The topics UL proposed were (1) technical advisory panels (TAP's), (2) in-depth reports and information exchange between UL and CPSC, and (3) hazard based safety engineering. The discussions of these items are summarized below.

**1. TAP's:** UL(Beyries) stated that its standards development process has been in-place for many years, but that some people claim there is not enough input to it. CPSC (Medford) stated that the agency and others desire to have a stronger role especially with initial input into the standards development process. UL stated that there are two ways to do this, either a general type TAP to collect/discuss a broad array of issues for a variety of standards, or product standard specific TAP's. UL identified that the TAP process will allow CPSC to define who should be there and the scope of the issues to be discussed. ✓

In UL's TAP process, UL would still preserve the closed Industry Advisory Conference (IAC) forum as part of the standards development approach. UL noted that IAC meetings are used to collect information from the industry that might not be discussed in an open forum. UL stated it can make unilateral decisions and put out more stringent requirements if

safety issues are identified. UL pointed out that this information and that developed by the IACs is reported through standard's proposals (i.e., UL bulletins) before adopting final standards requirements.

UL noted that currently there are already some areas where a product specific standards meeting is planned with CPSC staff in the near term or has already been working, namely, smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors (current), and twist on electrical wire connectors (planned). UL proposed that these meetings be viewed as a "TAP" for these product areas, and that UL would view these activities as part of the revised standards development process.

The status of the three areas was then discussed, as follows:

- (a) On smoke detectors, UL will be releasing a proposed bulletin in the next few weeks. UL proposed a meeting about 60 days after the proposal comment period. This would allow time for UL to compile the comments on the bulletin including any CPSC might have, and give the TAP invitees time to review them before the meeting.
- (b) For CO detectors, CPSC will be providing recommendations to UL by the end of June, based on the data obtained from the hearings held in February. UL received input from the American Gas Association (AGA) and is considering issuing a proposal to revise UL 2034 by putting forth this information. CPSC stated that it is not in a position to comment on the AGA proposal, and suggested no TAP meeting until after UL gets CPSC's recommendations and analyses from the February hearings. However, CPSC allowed that UL can act on AGA's proposal as they see fit. UL then indicated that they will put the AGA's, CPSC's and anyone else's input they receive together in one bulletin to be issued in July or August. UL stated it would expect a TAP meeting in September or October.
- (c) For twist on connectors, CPSC noted that a meeting was being planned in May to discuss potential changes to UL486C, and that this forum should be viewed as part of the TAP approach. UL stated that this was an Industry Advisory Group (IAG) meeting that was scheduled with CPSC invited. As part of moving the TAP process forward UL stated that they will consider this an open meeting and confirm with the appropriate UL staff.

UL and CPSC agreed to look at these three activities and evaluate the TAP process implementation after the three sessions are held.

## **2. Thermoplastics**

CPSC is still working out a plan to propose to industry and will arrange conference call in the next few weeks with other interested parties including UL. UL noted that the case studies received to date did not necessarily constitute thermoplastics issues but they are pursuing the problems identified. CPSC (Stadnik) noted that other cases will be forthcoming at about 2-3 per month.

### 3. Hazard Based Safety Engineering (HBSE)

The thermoplastics issue raised this broader issue of design process, where upgrading product performance standards may not work alone at addressing product failures. UL agreed that a better development process to address issues beyond those contained in standards would be useful, and is pursuing this under the HBSE program it is developing.

UL stated that they have not fully developed the details of its HBSE implementation plan, but has committed to adopt this and will be providing training to principal development engineers on HBSE and eventually all of the staff. UL is also looking at building HBSE methods into standards and the standards development process.

**4. Additional Topics:** The following additional topics were discussed briefly:

**a. UL/CPSC "annual meetings"** - UL felt these were useful fora to discuss the various issues between the two groups. CPSC stated that these could probably be resumed if they were properly scoped, and that a good time to hold them might be at beginning of the federal fiscal year to discuss what CPSC is planning to look at during the year. CPSC and UL agreed to consider holding such a session this coming October.

**b. Ground Fault Circuit Interruption Devices** - UL stated they would like to wait to see the test results for the new instructions and terminal labels in May and have a possible follow-up meeting at that time to discuss any potential standard revisions.

**c. Gate Openers** - CPSC will be attending the IAC meeting later in April in Chicago.

**d. Hair Dryers** - UL stated that it appeared that the proposal to the National Electrical Code (NEC) on hair dryer wattage limitations will not likely be adopted for NEC 421.

**e. Seminars** - UL stated they will try to hold some of their technical seminars in the Washington area, and allow CPSC to attend.

**f. Spring 1996 CPSC Small Business Initiative** - UL (Haataja) asked about this upcoming activity. This conference is being planned for the New York City area in June and that Walt Sanders of the CPSC would be his best contact point for any coordination or information.

**g. Fraudulent Certification** - CPSC (Schmeltzer) stated that when UL identifies products with counterfeit markings, that the CPSC would like to know of the occurrences so it can take its own necessary actions. UL (Haataja) indicated that he would contact the right people in UL and ensure they follow-up with the CPSC properly.

c:

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